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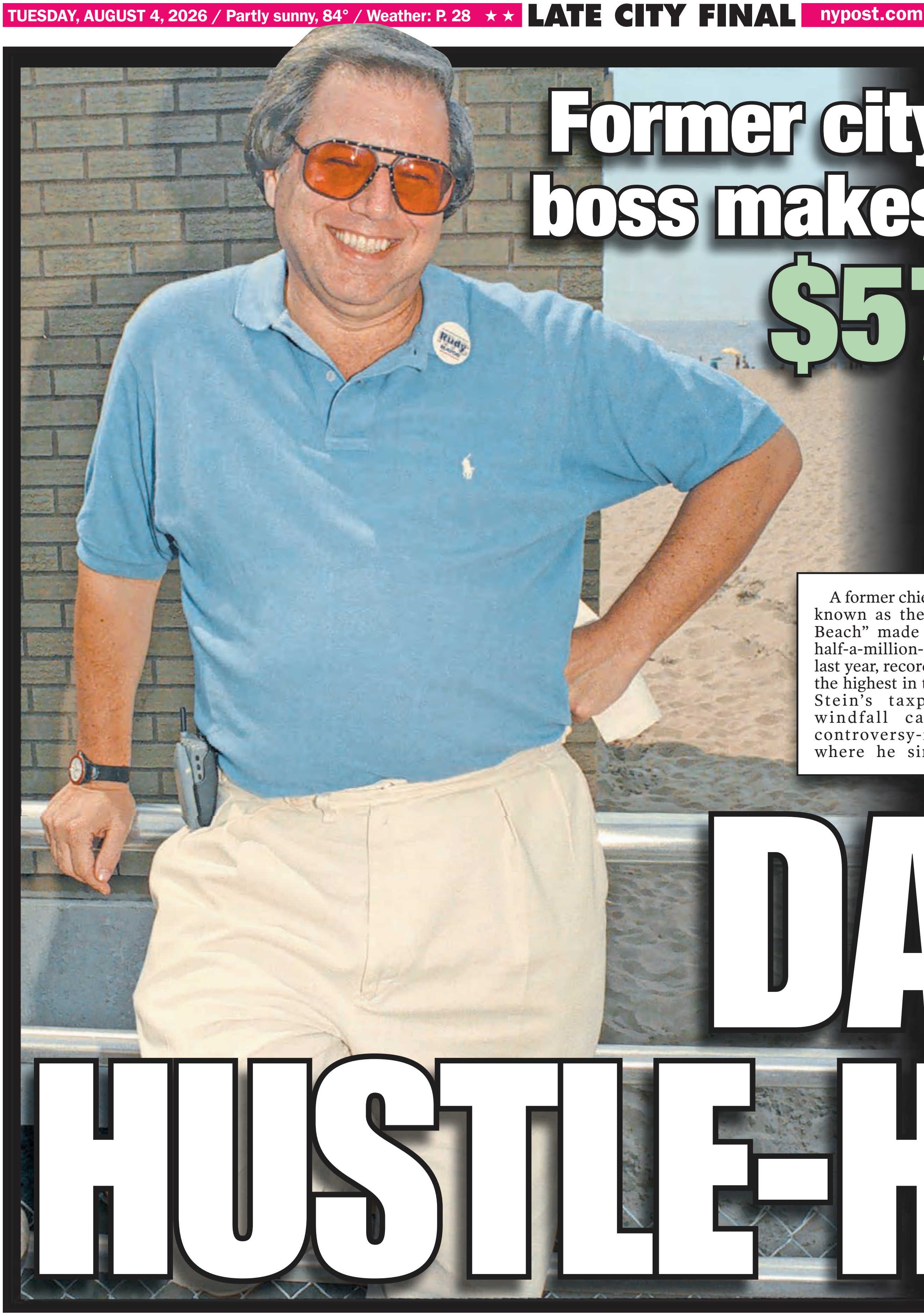

Former city lifeguard boss makes shocking $570,000 a year pension

A former chief city lifeguard known as the “Boss of the Beach” made an incredible half-a-million-dollar pension last year, records show, one of the highest in the state. Peter Stein’s taxpayer-funded windfall came after a controversy-filled career where he simultaneously worked as a schoolteacher and a union boss. The 81-year-old padded his paycheck before his retirement, and quit just as the Department of Investigation was probing the lifeguard program.

PAGES 4-5

DAVID HUSTLE-HOFF

THE MOST #1 RANKED SPECIALTIES IN THE U.S.

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U.S.News & WORLD REPORT
HONOR ROLL
2026-2027

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Pulmonology & Lung Surgery
Urology
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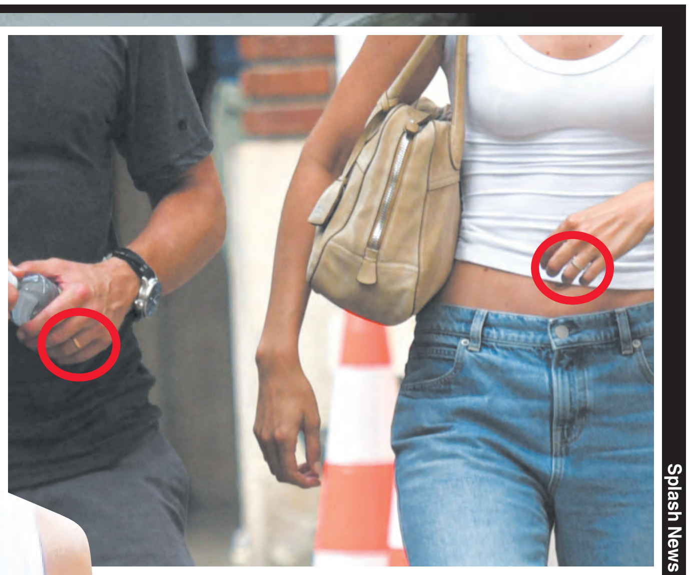
2026-2027 U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals, four-way tie for the most #1 national rankings; two-way tie for the most top 10 national rankings. List reflects specialties NYU Langone ranked top 10.

Lighting up Paris with rings



Splash News

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Best Image/BACKGRID

BAND MATES BRAD & GIGI

By ANTOINETTE BUENO

Bradley Cooper and Gigi Hadid are sparking speculation that they may have tied the knot, as the two were spotted sporting new rings (above).

The actor, 51, and the model, 31, were snapped in pics obtained by The Post's Page Six walking together in Paris on Monday. Both wore thin matching bands on their left ring fingers.

Both dressed casually for their walk, with Hadid rocking jeans and a white tank top, and Cooper opting for a backwards baseball hat, a T-shirt and athletic pants.

Later, they were seen holding hands (left) while leaving a gym, where Hadid's ring was still visible. Cooper was photographed two days ago going to the gym solo, sans ring.

They've been dating since October 2023, when they were spotted stepping out for a dinner date in New York. In July 2025, a source told Page Six that Cooper was "considering marriage and kids with Gigi."

Page Six has reached out to reps for Cooper and Hadid for comment.

Green wave of benefits

62 retirees got $200K

By CARL CAMPANILE
and MATT TROUTMAN

The "Boss of the Beach" is just a drop in the ocean.

A gobsmacking 62 government retirees — including double-dipping former chief lifeguard Peter Stein — pulled pension payments of at least $200,000 last year from the city's retirement system, data shows.

Stein's tsunami-sized $570,000 pension payment led all others in the New York City Employees' Retirement System during 2025, excluding back pay, the Empire Center's SeeThroughNY.net website reports.

All told, the dozens of high-flying high earners, such as Stein, and scores more modest city retirees took in nearly $6.2 billion in taxpayer-funded payouts last year, according to the data.

"These eye-popping payouts reflect a fundamentally broken system, not just individual wrongdoing," said Abdullah Ar Rafee, a data manager at the Empire Center for Public Policy.

"Between overtime spiking and legacy benefit rules, New York's pension design rewards benefit padding at the explicit expense of the public."

The top pensions besides Stein's went to a grab bag of former civil servants, including a veteran prosecutor and a long-retired doctor. They are, according to the data:

■ Nicolas Audi, retired from the Department of Environmental Protection in 2018 — with $341,487 in total pension payments.

■ The late Warren Murray Jr., retired from the Manhattan DA's Office in 2021 — $325,015 in total pension payments.

■ Eileen Barkow, retired from the Department of Information, Technology and Telecommunications in 2023 — $297,130 in total pension payments.

■ Roger Smoke, retired from the Health and Hospitals Corporation in 2014 — $293,183 in total pension.

Stein stood out from the other top retirement earners in several ways.

For one, Stein retired last year and still topped the list.

Only nine retirees who collected their first full-year pension during 2025 received more than $200,000, according to the Empire Center. Some 490 received six-figure payouts, the data showed.

He also long faced public scrutiny for his dual career, in which he served as a full-time gym teacher and chief lifeguard, drawing the "Boss of the Beach" nickname.

$62K average

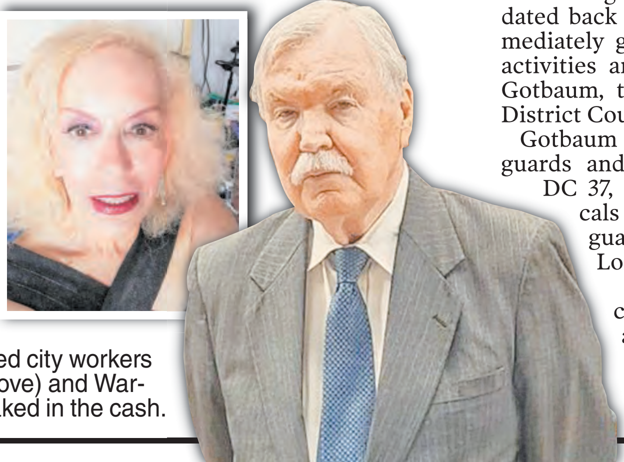
The average pension by "full career" city retirees stood at $62,582 last year.

But the number of six-figure pensioners has doubled from roughly 1,600 during 2020 to 3,200 last year, according to data.

Stein's pension payment was outpaced only by Lucradia Riddick, an Administration for Children's Services retiree who received a $627,886 payment, data shows.

Riddick's payment, however, included roughly $404,000 in backpay.

The roughly $6 billion in pension payouts for city workers last year is peanuts compared to the nearly $17 billion paid out by the state's largest retirement system.



THAT'S RICH: Retired city workers like Eileen Barkow (above) and Warren Murray Jr. (right) raked in the cash.

Shady ex-chief lifeguard's

By CARL CAMPANILE

Life's a beach — when taxpayers pick up the tab.

A controversial former Big Apple chief city lifeguard nicknamed "Boss of the Beach" raked in a staggering $570,419 pension last year, according to the Empire Center for Public Policy, a nonprofit government watchdog.

Ex-chief lifeguard and union boss Peter Stein's taxpayer-funded golden parachute comes after a longtime dual career where he also served full-time as a middle school gym teacher in Brooklyn — calling it quits while under investigation by the city Department of Investigation.

Stein, 81, held two full-time city jobs for three decades, and he was probed by the Board of Education for the unusual but legal arrangement — with investigators digging in to see if he was shirking his responsibilities. Nothing came of the probe.

The city's alleged David Hustlehoff started patrolling beaches more than 60 years ago, and for more than 40 years was president of the lifeguard supervisors' union, Local 508 of District Council 37.

He was called the "boss of the beach" and accused of controlling not just his union, but the separate lifeguard union, Local 461.

Focus of probes

Stein retired as a schoolteacher in 2004 after 32 years, pulling in $77,974 the year before he retired, records showed. He had also led the teachers union chapter at his school for many years.

But Stein kept working as chief lifeguard for two more decades with his tenure marked by a series of accusations of mismanagement, including claims of failing to take action on sexual harassment claims and retaliation.

Stein ended up as the center of a 2020 New York magazine profile that compared "The Boss of the Beach" to Boss Tweed and said he relied on "a playbook of patronage, power brokering, and intimidation."

The alleged beach bum's history dated back to 1964, when he immediately got involved in union activities and befriended Victor Gotbaum, the powerful head of District Council 37.

Gotbaum persuaded the lifeguards and supervisors to join DC 37, creating two new locals — Local 508 for lifeguard supervisors and Local 461 for lifeguards.

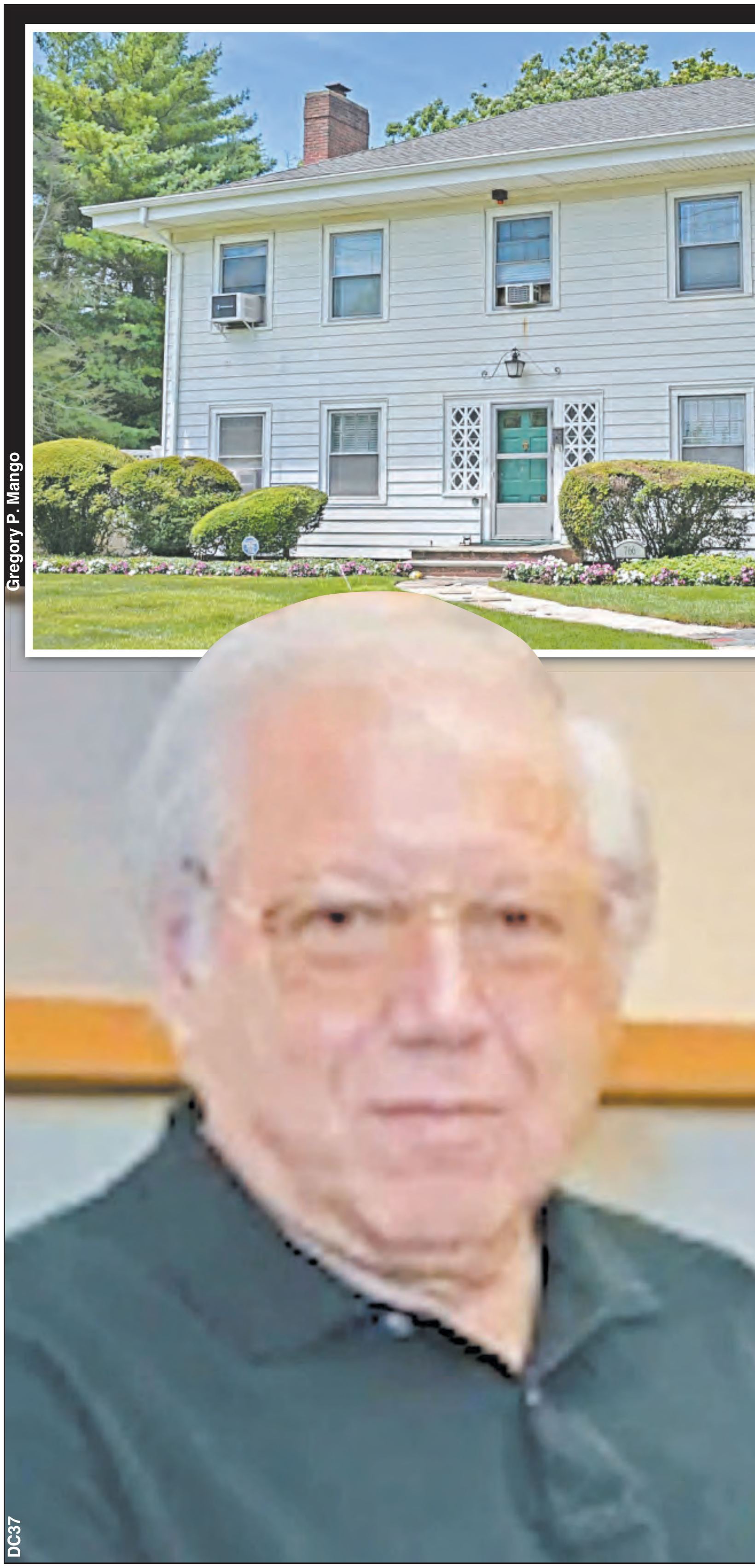
Stein was the man in charge of the beach and pools.

But complaints over the years warranted city probes into allegations of conflicts of interest and mismanagement within the Parks Department Lifeguard Division and the unions, while Stein was the center of power.

In the 1990s, an investigation found "mismanagement, union interference, and deficient record-keeping," DOI said.

But recommendations to bolster accountability were not implemented, DOI said.

DOI issued a scathing report of the LifeGuard Division in 2021, which said Stein was "resistant to management changes."



Gregory P. Mango

DC37

staggering taxpayer-financed payout

BEACHED WHALE OF $570K PENSION

‘SHORE’ LOADED: Ex-chief lifeguard and union boss Peter Stein (left), nicknamed “Boss of the Beach,” pulled in a mind-boggling $570,419 in pension payments last year, according to a nonprofit government watchdog. Stein declined to comment on the report, but a woman driving a sleek Mercedes (below) outside Stein’s Long Island home (above) said, “I know why you’re here.”

Gregory P. Mango

Stein did not cooperate with the probe.

“The structure, history, and culture of the Lifeguard Division reveals systemic dysfunction in its management and accountability,” DOI said.

“One senior DPR official described the Lifeguard Division as a ‘black box’ to DPR management. Some witnesses also described the unions and, in particular Peter Stein, the president of one of the local lifeguard unions, as resistant to management changes.”

How exactly Stein got up to $570,000 last year in retirement pay last year is unclear.

His regular gross pay topped out at $121,000 in 2023 and then $120,475 in 2024.

Stein was paid $74,440 in salary for 2025, when he only worked part of the year — but he took in another $205,599 in “other pay,” ballooning his total take for the year to $280,000.

His total pay was $213,473 in 2023 and $196,805 in 2024.

Stein declined to comment.

A woman driving a Mercedes with the vanity plate “wow e” outside Stein’s home Sunday called a Post reporter to her window and said “give it up already.” She declined to comment and also said, “I know why you’re here,” before she rolled her eyes and drove away.

The Empire Center’s Abdullah Ar Rafee said the laws allow government employees to “stack multiple pensions” or rack up late-career overtime, and workers like Stein “would be unwise not to take full advantage.”

“Peter Stein’s pension is extraordinary, but it is not an anomaly, as we have consistently noted such high pensions every year across New York’s various pension systems,” Ar Rafee said. “It is a direct consequence of how New York’s public pension system was designed.

“At the end, the ultimate burden falls on state and local taxpayers, who are left funding ballooning long-term liabilities that crowd out public services.”

Dems enable abuse

Ar Rafee said Gov. Hochul and the state Legislature have taken action that’s rolled back measures put in place to control pension costs, at the behest of the powerful public employee unions.

This year, the Democrat-controlled state government largely undid Tier 6 reforms, which saw pension benefits slashed and contributions upped for public workers hired after 2012, with their retirement ages bumped up from 55 to 62.

This year’s unwinding of Tier 6 dropped the age of retirement for teachers and other educators back down to 58 with 30 years of service. It also shrank employee contributions, putting the burden on taxpayers and local governments instead.

That move “will only make the problem worse for future generations,” the Empire Center’s rep said.

The total number of pensioners grew only 7% in the last five years — from 150,563 in 2020 to 160,982 in 2025.

But total pension benefits rose by 24% to $6.18 billion from $4.99 billion.

The number of six-figure pensioners doubled during this period to 3,219 from 1,609 in 2020.

The Empire Center said it’s worth noting that pension payments in New York are not subject to state and local income tax.

For example, a retiree with a $60,000 pension payment would save approximately $4,586 or 7.64% in state and local income taxes.

Additional reporting by Brandon Cruz

Real cost of $6B plan is $9B: study

By PATRICK REILLY

Mayor Mamdani's universal childcare plan will cost 50% more than he advertised, according to a new study.

The proposed program is estimated to cost a whopping $9 billion annually, with an average cost per child of roughly $27,000, according to the report from the Center for New York City Affairs, a nonpartisan research organization affiliated with The New School.

"An estimated $8.7 to $9.3 billion would be needed annually to fund universal child care in New York City," states the report, which was released on Monday.

That's $3 billion more than the mayor previously said his ambitious universal free childcare program would cost.

Hizzoner promised on the campaign trail that his plan to make childcare free for children from 6 weeks to 5 years old, regardless of family income, would cost about $6 billion per year and be paid for by taxing the state's wealthiest earners.

Mam's lowball on kid care

PRICEY FREEBIE: Mayor Mamdani campaigned on free childcare for children as young as 6 weeks old, saying it would cost $6 billion a year, but a study says it will be 50% more expensive.

Matthew McDermott

Underestimated

The $3 billion gap identified in the study was largely tied to teacher pay, with the Center for NYC Affairs estimating some 23,000 new childcare workers will need to be hired, mainly for infants and children under 3 years old.

The city also needs to create about 10,000 new seats for children younger than pre-K age, the researchers projected.

The report noted that the city, in the 2025 fiscal year, budgeted $2.5 billion and ended up spending $3.8 billion on childcare services.

"This is emblematic of the regular under-estimation of service delivery costs," the researchers wrote. "Therefore, the City will need to identify at least an additional $4.9 to $5.5 billion to sustain a fully universal system."

Rolling out the program is essentially impossible without major support from the state and federal government, the report said.

City Hall has not said how it plans on paying for the program beyond taxing the rich and asking Albany for more money.

Gov. Hochul has already promised Mamdani $1.2 billion to kickstart the program in certain neighborhoods and said she plans to continue the funding.

The city currently offers free pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds, with limited seats for 2-year-olds starting this fall.

Hochul said in January the funding will come from "existing" state revenues rather than new taxes.

Taxing the rich, as Mamdani and his socialist supporters have suggested, was off the table, she said at the time.

'Additional investment'

City Hall has yet to release its own official cost model for the program and declined to comment on the $9 billion figure.

"Delivering on those promises will require additional public investment, and this administration has been clear about that from the start," Mamdani spokesperson Jenna Lyle told The New York Times.

"We are grateful to Governor Hochul for her partnership and initial investment in this work," Lyle said.

City Hall didn't return a request for comment from The Post.

Additional reporting by Craig McCarthy

preilly@nypost.com

Riders demand AG probe of OMNY

A crew of subway riders who say they've been overcharged and issued phantom fines on their MTA-issued OMNY cards want the state's top prosecutor to investigate the alleged debacle, The Post has learned.

The group Passengers United told The Post they are organizing rallies outside Attorney General Letitia James' office to push for a probe into the tap-and-go fare system they claim has hit hundreds of riders with overcharges and improper fees.

"We want them to investigate [system developer] Cubic for defects with OMNY, including overcharges, [and that] it doesn't show payments leading to erroneous fines from fare inspectors," group president Charlton D'Souza told The Post.

Cubic did not respond to a request for comment.

The group also has fired off letters to James and city and state lawmakers laying out the complaints, along with a petition demanding the MTA fix OMNY and restore unlimited passes.

Prepaid seven-day and 30-day passes were scrapped in lieu of an automatic system that caps a straphanger's tab at $35 over seven days. After that, the rest of the week's rides are supposed to be included.

Some bus riders have complained of being charged for rides they didn't board after tapping cards with insufficient funds.

Fares hit a record high of $3 in January, and the MTA is considering 4% increases for both 2027 and 2029.

Haley Brown and Matthew Fischetti

INSIDE TODAY

News Columns
Jonathan Schanzer 8
Kirsten Fleming 15
Allison Lax 24
Gossip
Page Six 20
Cindy Adams 22
Weather p. 28
Fun & Games
Horoscope 28
Su Doku 32
Crosswords 32
Post Opinion p. 29-31
Business p. 33-35
Classifieds p. 36
Sports p. 36-53
Mark Cannizzaro 44
Steve Serby 46
Jon Heyman 49
TV Decider p. 54-55

LOTTERY

NEW YORK
■ Midday Nos. Mon.: **558**
■ Midday Win-4 Mon.: **3121**
■ Midday Take-5 Mon.: **5, 11, 22, 31, 33**
■ Evening Nos. Mon.: **873**
■ Evening Win-4 Mon.: **5806**
■ Evening Take-5 Mon.: **17, 19, 20, 24, 34**
■ Pick-10 Mon.: **2, 5, 8, 14, 25, 26, 30, 33, 34, 36, 45, 46, 56, 59, 61, 64, 69, 71, 79, 80**
■ Millionaire for Life Mon.: **6, 7, 17, 44, 46**; MB: **2**
■ Powerball Mon.: **8, 30, 41, 48, 54**; PB: **4**; PP: **x2**; DP: **11, 15, 21, 28, 33**; PB: **6**

NEW JERSEY
■ Pick-3 Mon.: **681;** Fireball: **8**
■ Pick-4 Mon.: **6656;** Fireball: **8**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Mon.: **5, 30, 32, 39, 40**; Xtra: **x2**
■ Pick-6 Mon.: **6, 13, 23, 26, 31, 34**; DP: **2, 5, 14, 32, 39, 41**

CONNECTICUT
■ Play-3 Mon.: **412;** Wild: **7**
■ Play-4 Mon.: **5777;** Wild: **8**
■ Cash-5 Mon.: **7, 11, 13, 45, 47**

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76

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JUMPER'S MIRACLE DIP

Bridge leap's unlikely survival

By CHRIS NESI

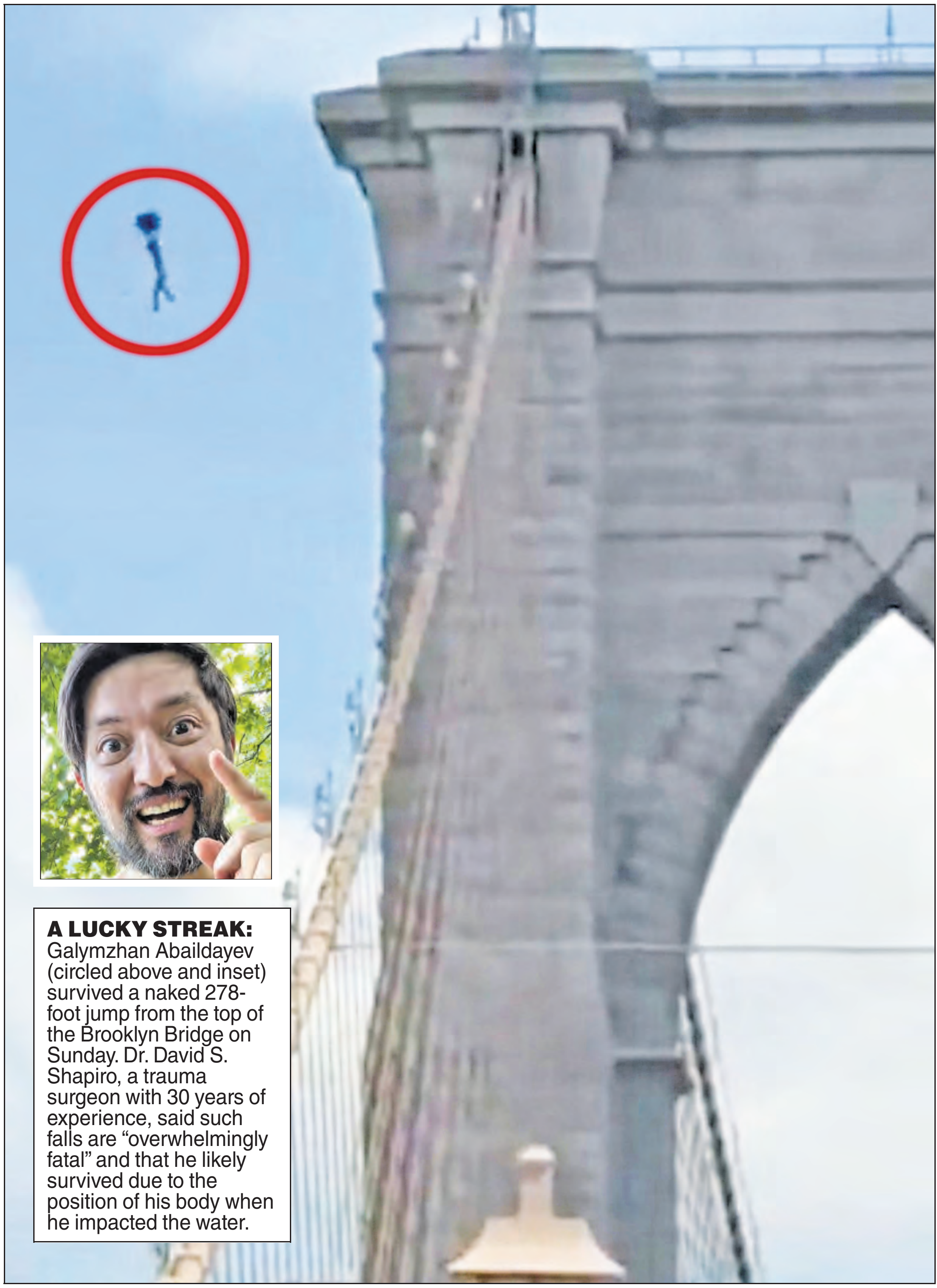
The miraculous survival of a disturbed man who leaped from the Brooklyn Bridge on Sunday could have come down to a handful of factors — the likeliest being the precise position of his body when he landed in the East River, an expert told The Post.

"Jumping or falling from extreme heights — such as a 270-foot bridge tower — is overwhelmingly fatal," said Dr. David S. Shapiro, a trauma surgeon with more than 30 years of experience.

"It generates extreme kinetic energy that causes widespread, life-threatening trauma," added Shapiro, who now works at New England Donor Services.

Incredibly, cops said the 44-year-old jumper, identified as Galymzhan Abaildayev, is in stable condition after his 278-foot leap from the top of the Brooklyn Bridge, which Shapiro said could be attributable to several variables, though not many of them likely.

The bag Abaildayev was carrying could have served as a "makeshift parachute" that reduced his descent speed just enough to spare his life before he crashed into the water's surface, which Shapiro said was likely at a speed between 79 and 87 mph.



A LUCKY STREAK: Galymzhan Abaildayev (circled above and inset) survived a naked 278-foot jump from the top of the Brooklyn Bridge on Sunday. Dr. David S. Shapiro, a trauma surgeon with 30 years of experience, said such falls are "overwhelmingly fatal" and that he likely survived due to the position of his body when he impacted the water.

X/@m_alejandr07

'Precise factors'

Another remote possibility is that an object such as a rock could have fallen just ahead of Abaildayev, disturbing and thereby slightly softening the surface of the water, reducing the impact on his body.

Shapiro points out that there's absolutely no evidence that either of those conditions existed, noting Abaildayev's best and most likely chance for survival was his body's position when he entered the water.

"If you slap your hand on the water palm down, it makes a big splash . . . if you hit it vertically like a karate chop you'll see it slice through the water. The position your body is in when it enters the water makes a big difference."

As for the types of injuries that would be typical in a patient who had endured such a fall, Shapiro said they ran the gamut.

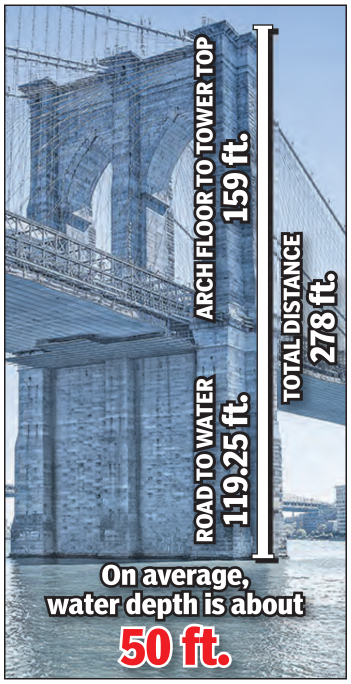
"I'd expect things like internal injuries — particularly what we call lacerations — of the spleen and liver, as well as skeletal, joint or bone injuries. If you land on your feet, your heel bone, one of the highest-impact bones in your body, it can cause a complex ankle fracture on both sides," he said.

" 'Vertical injuries' — where someone lands directly on their feet or head — can cause a variety of trauma, including burst fractures of the spine and at the base of the skull, injuring both the brain and spinal cord," he said.

"Survival in rare instances requires an extraordinarily precise alignment of factors: reduced descent velocity, ideal body orientation and immediate access to trauma care to mitigate lethal internal hemorrhage," he added.

Although Abaildayev was listed in stable condition, Shapiro points out that he's not necessarily out of the woods just yet.

"You can also have a fall and survive and die days or weeks later from other injuries," he said.



Stunt's motive laid bare

The naked man who jumped off the Brooklyn Bridge is an activist against Kazakhstan's government — and bragged he was going to make the daring leap on his birthday, his roommate revealed Monday.

"He was telling me he was going to do it," said Josh Karadag, 43, the roomie of jumper Galymzhan Abaildayev.

Abaildayev told him he led a boring, penniless life — and ignored Karadag's pleas not to leap off the bridge.

"He never wanted to live," he added. "It was obvious he was going to jump."

Abaildayev, 44, is facing several charges after he survived the wild nude jump.

The Brooklyn man erected several flags on top of the bridge, including a Kazakhstan one — because he's a vocal opponent of the country.

"I always tell him, 'Can you change anything in Kazakhstan? No, you can't, so live your life, brother,' " said Karadag, a Turkish-born artist. *Greg Carlton*

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

Trump ire at Big Oil's bonanza from war

President Trump bristled Monday at Big Oil's huge windfall amid the war in Iran, arguing that the country's largest oil companies should give some of their record profits to the American public.

"I don't like it," Trump said in the Oval Office when asked about the eye-popping earnings reported by ExxonMobil and Chevron last week.

ExxonMobil reported making $14.5 billion in the second quarter of 2026 — double what it made over the same period of time last year — and the $12 billion Chevron raked in was the most the company has made in a single quarter in six years.

Their soaring earnings came as the Iran war pushed oil prices at times to above $100 a barrel, and gasoline skyrocketed up to an average of $4.56 per gallon this spring.

"They're making too much money, OK, based on a shortage," Trump fumed.

"I don't like it, and I should be the last one to say it because I'm a big free enterprise guy," he continued. "Nobody bigger."

The president continued, "Chevron, too much money. ExxonMobil, too much money."

"When you look at one company where they made 12 times what they made the year before, they ought to give some of that back to the public, and they better cut the retail price, the consumer price," he argued.

"I'll say it loud and clear. I'm not happy about it," Trump said.

The president predicted that gasoline prices would "drop through the floor" when the US is "finished with Iran."

The current price at the pump for a gallon of regular ($4.09) is nearly $1 higher than it was at the same time last year.

Earlier Monday, Trump criticized Chevron CEO Mike Wirth on social media after the oil executive touted his company's efforts to ramp up oil and gas production amid a "somewhat fragile and uncertain" energy market in an interview with Fox Business' "Sunday Morning Futures" host Maria Bartiromo.

ExxonMobil and Chevron did not respond to The Post's requests for comment. *Victor Nava*

'LAST CHANCE'

Saudi must join fight 'Riyadh' now

JONATHAN SCHANZER

SAUDI Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman reportedly called President Trump on Saturday and implored him to hold off on striking the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Trump acquiesced and punted on a massive American bombing raid that could have potentially turned the tide of the war.

Admittedly, Saudi Arabia is in a tough spot: The Iranian regime continues to hammer the kingdom with drones and missiles, threatening its oil and water resources.

But the Saudis have not gone unprotected. American warfighters and even Greek air defense teams have ensured the safety of the Saudi state throughout this conflict.

Yet rather than aligning more closely with us, the Saudis have started to gravitate toward an alliance of basket cases in the Middle East.

Time to step up

The alliance is now referred to as "STEP": Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt and Pakistan.

These are all theoretically American allies. But they are not exactly working for American interests right now.

They view the weakening of the Shiite regime in Iran as an opportunity to reassert Sunni state dominance in the Muslim world.

At the same time, they are not eager to see the widening of the war because it would wreak more havoc, which is why they keep calling for diplomatic agreements.

By now, however, it should be clear that the Iranian leadership is not interested in a diplomatic agreement.

Every time one is brokered, the regime carries out aggressive actions in the Strait of Hormuz or it attacks our Persian Gulf Arab allies. And that's not likely to change. So when the Saudis ask America for restraint, they need to offer clear alternatives, not platitudes.

Better yet, the Saudis should join the fight.

Admittedly, the Saudis last month launched one strike against Iran-backed militias in Iraq.

And according to recent reports, the Saudis may be preparing for military action against the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen, particularly if the group tries to shut down Saudi shipping in the Red Sea.

The Saudis have a history of conflict with the Houthis; Riyadh launched a war against the group in 2015.

That war garnered a huge amount of criticism from US lawmakers, primarily due to errant strikes that led to high civilian casualties.

But that was then and this is now. A wider war has erupted across the Middle East.

Iran and its proxy network are fighting America and its allies on multiple fronts, and America should not be expected to fight on its own.

The Israelis have stepped up when asked. They've put skin in the game.

It's time to ask the Saudis to do the same.

The kingdom boasts a vast ar-

SAYS DON TO IRAN

GET OFF THE FENCE: Saudi Arabia must join the fight rather than continue to push for the US to find a diplomatic resolution to the war, as Iran (pictured) gives every indication it won't stick to a deal.

Abedin Taherkenareh/EPA/Shutterstock

senal of American-made planes, helicopters, tanks and other weapons.

Saudis must decide

Its forces are clearly equipped to fight, even if questions linger about the readiness of Saudi fighters, who have not seen much action on the battlefield.

In the end, however, it boils down to will.

Now, whenever the war heats up, the Saudis seem to want to cool it down — a significant shift from the beginning of the conflict, when Saudi officials quietly backed Trump's effort.

With the war at an impasse, and the Iranian regime looking increasingly emboldened by that, Saudi Arabia must be put to a choice.

There's no time for fence-sitting.

The president should send our allies in Riyadh a clear message: It's time to either join the fight, foot the bill, or get out of the way.

Jonathan Schanzer is executive director at Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a nonpartisan think tank in Washington, DC.

Make a deal or 'decapitation'

Getty Images

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

WASHINGTON — President Trump declared Monday he's giving Iran one "last chance before decapitation," betting on lucky No. 13 for his final ultimatum.

Speaking from the Oval Office, Trump claimed negotiations are underway to reopen the Strait of Hormuz as soon as Tuesday after he called off a large-scale "World War II" intensity military operation over the weekend to give Iran a final chance to avoid destruction.

"This is a last chance," Trump said. "This is the last chance for them to sign a good document."

"I want to give them every last chance before decapitation," he added.

The president has given Iran at least a dozen chances since the war began Feb. 28, threatening strikes or imposing deadlines for major actions by Tehran only to reverse course or extend time limits, according to a review by The Post of prior statements.

This includes backing down from operations to blow up power plants or moving self-imposed deadlines for military strikes.

Avoid large damage

For example, he delayed attacks twice in the spring, halted planned bombing in April to keep talks alive, backed off further strikes in May after Persian Gulf allies pushed for restraint, and held fire again in June as US and Iranian negotiators worked toward a framework deal.

Asked what was different this time that makes him believe Iran would finally bend, Trump implied he's trying to avoid large scale damage to the Iranians.

"It's very tough to do what we have planned, still planned. We'll see what happens, but it's very very tough thing to do," he said of so-called decapitation strikes, which would target Iranian leadership instead of infrastructure for the first time since the first days of the war.

Trump said Iran requested the negotiations after backing from key gulf allies, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, following his decision to call off what he described as a massive US military strike over the weekend.

"We are talking right now," Trump said. "We're talking, and we're talking at the request of Iran, backed by Saudi Arabia, backed by UAE, and backed by Qatar in particular."

Trump suggested Americans would soon know if diplomacy succeeds.

"You'll find out today or tomorrow," he said. "They're going to go quickly, one way or the other. It's not very complex."

But Iran claimed Monday it is not negotiating with Washington, but with Oman on plans to reopen the strait.

"To avoid any misunderstanding, it is important to clarify what the current negotiations are about and who they are with. We are not negotiating with the United States at this time," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said.

Trump also laid out what he described as a two-phase plan, saying the immediate priority is reopening the strait, the narrow waterway that serves as one of the world's most important oil shipping lanes.

After maritime traffic resumes, he said, Washington will turn to negotiating over Iran's nuclear program, the president's north star.

Oman! Tehran won't talk to US

Iran says it isn't negotiating with the United States, but it is talking to another country that could deliver one of President Trump's biggest foreign policy goals: reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

While Tehran publicly rejected Trump's Sunday claim that US-Iran talks are underway, Iranian officials said they're in intensive negotiations with Oman, which shares the strait with Iran, over the future of the narrow shipping lane.

If Oman can broker a deal, Trump could get the strait reopened without sitting down directly with Iran.

"Our negotiations are with Oman and are focused on reaching an understanding on a route that will ensure the safe passage of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said. *Caitlin Doornbos*

Criminal hate up under Zo

57% of vics are Jews

By CRAIG McCARTHY,
CHRIS NESI and
MATT TROUTMAN

Hate crimes have surged in the Big Apple under Mayor Mamdani, with more than half of incidents targeting Jewish New Yorkers, crime statistics show.

The 9.4% uptick in hate crimes comes even as all seven major crime categories saw sharp declines across all five boroughs — including historic lows for murders and shootings — so far this year, according to NYPD data released Monday.

More than half of hate crimes, 56.9%, were antisemitic, although Jews make up just 10% of the city's population, the NYPD noted.

Many Jewish leaders were quick to blame Mamdani, an outspoken critic of Israel who has accused it of committing a "genocide" during the war in Gaza and called for the arrest of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"People take their cue from the mayor," said Dov Hikind, founder of Americans Against Antisemitism and a former state Assembly member from Brooklyn. "He's creating fear in the Jewish community."

Gotham's confirmed hate crimes of all types stands at 360 so far this year, with 33 in July, the data shows. During the same span last year, there were 329.

Hate crimes against Jewish New Yorkers so far this year increased by 8.5%, 205 year-to-date compared to 189 for the same period in 2025.

The suspected incidents included separate stabbing attacks on the Upper West Side on July 23 that left a Jewish man wearing a yarmulke and an Asian man wounded.

Tepid Zo response

Accused stabber Raul Morales, 51, allegedly screamed "Allahu Akbar!" during the spree.

The attacks prompted a wave of finger-pointing toward Mamdani by many Jewish advocates, especially after he offered little more than a canned response.

"You know, first and foremost, I want to make clear that this is a city where we have no tolerance for hatred of any kind," he said when asked by the Jewish leaders if he had a reaction to the crimes.

After the hate-crime data was revealed, City Council Speaker Julie Menin, who is Jewish, called for action, but conspicuously didn't blame Mamdani.

"I remain deeply concerned and very troubled by the unacceptable spike in hate crimes, particularly driven by those targeting Jewish New Yorkers," she said in a statement. "This data underscores why as the Council's first Jewish Speaker, my very first initiative was a Five-Point Plan to Combat Antisemitism," Menin said. "I will not waver in the fight to protect our communities from hatred."

Facebook/Lidia Lander; Luiz C. Ribeiro

BLOOD ON STREET: Raul Morales (inset) yelled "Allahu Akbar!" before stabbing Moshe Grunhaus (above) on July 23, police said.

By contrast, Orthodox Jewish state Assemblyman Sam Berger (D-Queens) argued Mamdani must do more to combat antisemitism.

"In his first six months in office, antisemitism has only gotten worse," he said.

"It's hard to claim progress when hate keeps setting new records."

When asked Monday about the hate-crime surge, Mamdani said intolerance has no place in the city. He noted his administration increased the Mayor's Office of Hate Crime Prevention's budget by 800% to $26 million.

"We know that while Jewish New Yorkers comprise a minority of our population, they continue to comprise a majority of the victims of hate crimes," he said, during an unrelated press conference in The Bronx. "And that is unacceptable. The work to uproot antisemitism out of this city is one that will continue until we see hate crimes come to an end."

Major crimes are experiencing major dips across the board.

In July, shootings decreased 21.3% to 59. Murder is down 22.8% for the first seven months of the year. Burglary, auto theft, robbery, grand larceny and felony assault were also down between 0.4% and 25.3% so far this year.

Additional reporting by Carl Campanile, Matthew Fischetti and Vaughn Golden

Transit crime jumps

Transit crime in the Big Apple spiked nearly 11% last month, a surge cops Monday partially blamed on violent and sticky-fingered recidivists.

July saw 173 transit crimes overall, compared to 156 during the same month last year, NYPD statistics show.

The increase was largely fueled by felony assaults and nonviolent grand larcenies, police officials said.

Felony assaults accounted for 27% (47) of all transit crime during July, while grand larcenies — thefts of property valued at more than $1,000 — made up 51.4% (88), officials said.

Roughly half of those felony assaults were committed against three different types of victim: NYPD cops, MTA employees and the elderly, according to officials.

Assaults on elderly straphangers accounted for nearly 21% of felony assaults in July, with 10 recorded compared to four during the same month last year, or a 150% increase, authorities said.

So far this year, crime underground increased by 1%, or 14 incidents overall, according to the NYPD data.

Felony assaults during that span increased 8.3%, or by 30 attacks, data shows.

Attacks on the elderly increased by 46.7%, or 66 assaults during 2026 so far compared to 45 last year, data shows. Assaults against NYPD cops and MTA employees largely stayed flat.

Law-enforcement sources argued recidivists — such as Joseph Zimmerman, 56, who has been arrested at least 50 times and previously was highlighted in a February exposé by The Post — helped fuel many of those increases.

Joe Marino, Matt Troutman and Matthew Fischetti

Lindsey's Senate sister favors nixing filibuster

Sen. Darline Graham expressed support for nuking the Senate filibuster and pledged to stand "100% behind" President Trump during a debate Monday in the South Carolina Senate Republican primary race for her late brother's seat.

The debate marked Graham's first political test in her barely 2-week-old campaign to succeed one of the most influential GOP senators in history — her older brother, Lindsey Graham, who died of an aortic rupture last month.

Graham indicated that she's willing to scrap the Senate's 60-vote threshold to pass the Trump-backed SAVE America Act — noting that it's a step further than Lindsey would go in support of mandatory voter-ID legislation.

"I am all for — this is where I differ from my brother — getting rid of the filibuster to get this done, because eventually the Democrats are going to get rid of it anyway," she said.

Graham is vying against Reps. Ralph Norman and Russell Fry, businessman Mark Lynch and former congressman and Palmetto State governor Mark Sanford in the Aug. 11 primary.

Victor Nava

REP. CHUCK EDWARDS
"Inappropriate conduct."

NC rep. 'hit on' staffers

WASHINGTON — Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-NC) had a young female staffer "scared lowkey" after making seemingly romantic advances toward her and another woman who worked in his Capitol Hill office as part of a pattern of "persistent unprofessional and inappropriate conduct," according to a House Ethics Committee report released Monday.

Edwards, a 65-year-old married father and grandfather, "went beyond norms of professional behavior by giving both women lavish gifts," "commenting on the two women's appearance" and "inviting them to intimate dinners and vacations," the 20-page report found of his behavior to female staffers in their early 20s.

The North Carolina Republican also arranged for a singer to appear at one of the women's birthday parties to sing Ed Sheeran's song "Hills of Aberfeldy" — and tell her the gift was "from a special someone," the report stated.

Josh Christenson

New York is No. 1 for ♥

Gotham's got 'em Google-y eyed — as the newly crowned No. 1 city for romance in the US.

New York outranks the rest in romance-related Google inquiries, with 212 searches per 100,000 residents, according to an analysis by dating app Agilis.

It's an extraordinary accolade for a locale with a reputation as the worst for dating. But things can change in a New York minute.

Nashville, Tenn., came in second at 201 searches, and Austin, Texas, was third with 200.

Asia Grace

Monica Barbaro, oh-so-alluring in a stunning white gown, was snapped on Monday on the red carpet at the New York premiere of her latest movie, "One Night Only," which was held at the SVA Theatre in Chelsea.

WireImage

Monica makes a 'Night' of it

HUNT FOR 'GRAM SLAMMER

Vic seeks Meta's help

By PETER SENZAMICI

A luxury-car dealer in Westchester County is being mercilessly tormented by an anonymous online troll — who derided his wife's wedding jewelry as "another s--t ring" that "mommy" paid for, a new lawsuit says.

Charles Gray, who peddles high-end rides and once helped run his dad's now-defunct dealership Respect Auto, is demanding in his suit that Meta unmask the person behind a rogue Instagram account he claims has relentlessly smeared him as a "fraudster" and a "scammer" since December.

"Another s--t ring," reads a post featuring a photo of Gray holding his wife's gold-and-diamond-ring-laden hand — a snap filed with the Manhattan Supreme Court lawsuit.

"Paid for with stolen money from Charles' victims or by Charlie's mommy who still pays his bills. Imagine being 40 and this is all you can get," the post adds, according to the suit, which decries the account's "dozens of false statements."

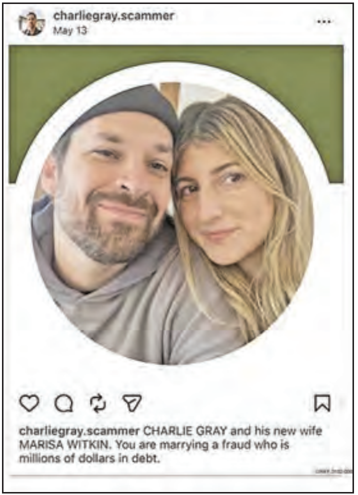
A photo of Gray also appeared on the suspect Instagram page with the caption, "My morals are as s–ty as this haircut & im 40 and live w my mom so theres that too," the lawsuit says.

Gray's suit says, "Beyond the defamatory statements, the Scammer Account has engaged in a persistent campaign to harass and intimidate Petitioner, his wife, and their family members."

Many of the offensive posts on Instagram — which is owned by Mark Zuckerberg's Meta — tag other luxury-car dealers and Gray's friends and family members, the filing says.

Some of the posts also target his wife and claim that she is a "scammer" who is "complicit' in fraud," the suit alleges.

In the account's most recent post, text alongside a photo of his wife with her family declares, "YOUR DAUGHTER IS MARRYING A MAN WHO IS A KNOWN FRAUDSTER and is millions of dollars in debt."



charliegray.scammer
May 13

charliegray.scammer CHARLIE GRAY and his new wife MARISA WITKIN. You are marrying a fraud who is millions of dollars in debt.

ANTI-SOCIAL: Charles Gray is hoping Meta will ID the person who is smearing the high-end car dealer's reputation on Instagram.

The account somehow managed to post multiple private pictures of Gray and his wife, too — including wedding pics and a snapshot of the couple on vacation with a text overlay reading, "Couple of scammers and frauds enjoying nobu malibu on stolen funds," the filing says.

Culprit in mind

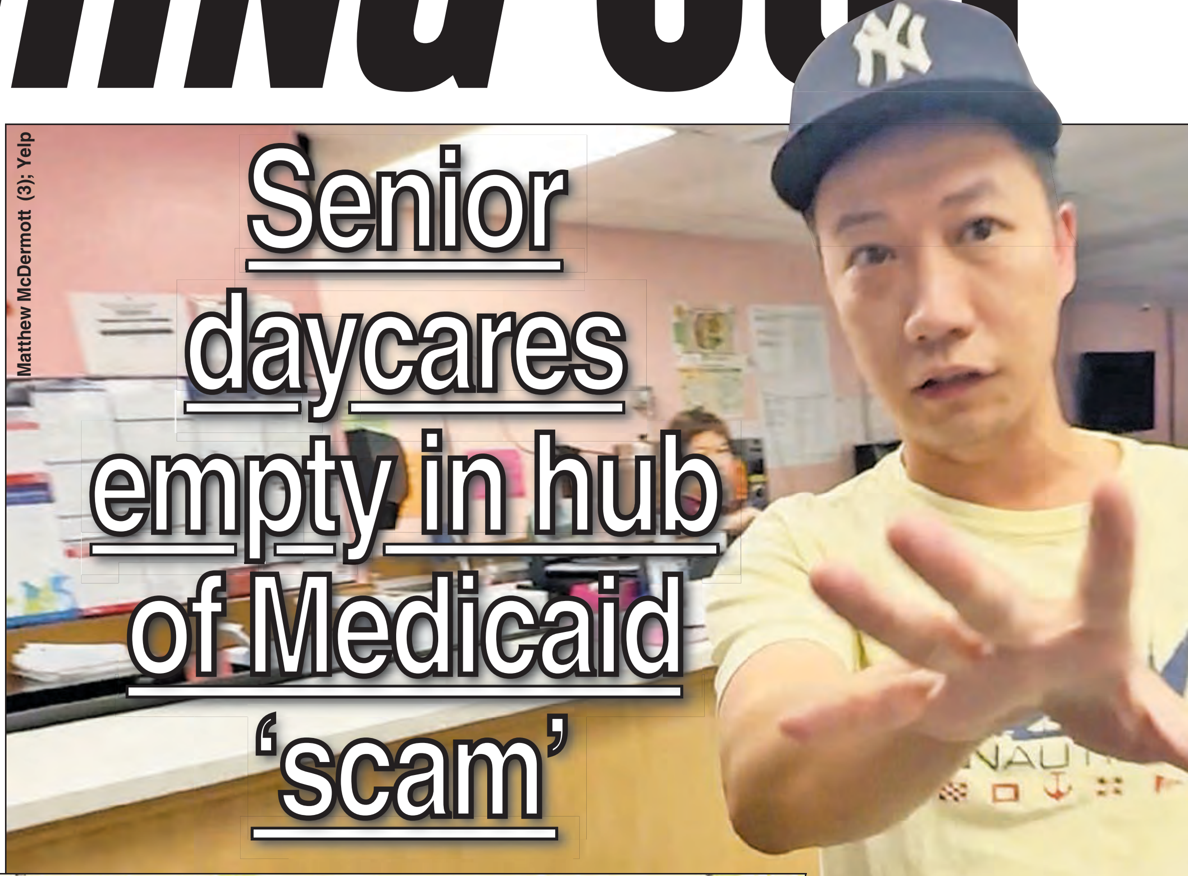
Those photos and others only exist on Gray's phone and his cloud backup, and he "[had] not sent these photographs to anyone," court documents claim.

While his lawsuit states that he "has a viable cause of action against the user(s) of the Scammer Account for defamation," it says his camp needs Meta to reveal the account's true identity.

But while Gray says he needs Meta's account logs and IP records to reveal the culprit, several photos posted by the troll were shared with "only one person" — former friend Tomás Mayer De Paulo through WhatsApp, the suit claims.

Meta did not respond to a Post email, while Gray's lawyer declined comment.

FLUSHING OUT



Senior daycares empty in hub of Medicaid 'scam'

Matthew McDermott (3); Yelp

By CHADWICK MOORE

The vibrant, East Asian immigrant enclave of Flushing may be New York's medical fraud capital.

A 1-mile radius of the neighborhood boasts 77 Social Adult Daycares (SADCs), which bill Medicaid more than $100 million a year, accounting for 14% of all daycare spending in the state, a Post investigation reveals.

When The Post visited some of largest — which are private businesses that have claimed between $20 million and $40 million from Medicaid over the last six years — many storefronts were empty, and those that were open had empty rooms with no patients.

At Livingwell Day Care on Northern Boulevard, lights were dimmed over rows of empty tables in a mess hall near the entrance. No seniors appeared to be inside, but Livingwell billed Medicaid $27 million from 2018-2024 and had over 26,500 patients, according to federal data.

A man at the front desk refused to answer questions, chased a reporter and cameraman out and threatened to call police. The facility has not been implicated in any crimes.

Nothing to see here

A woman who identified herself as Wendy, a care worker at Bao Kang Adult Day Care on Blossom Avenue, told The Post she has 100 or 200 patients a day, but said "I don't know" when asked about the $32 million billed to Medicaid for serving 43,900 unique patients during the same years.

Wendy denied The Post a tour, but a security monitor behind her desk displaying common areas showed every single one was empty.

Since The Post's initial expose on New York's SADC abuse in January and a federal bust in February that saw two men charged with ripping off $120 million over 10 years from Medicaid using two SADCs they owned, workers have been on high alert.

Entrances are locked during business hours, while windows are covered in perforated vinyl wrap.

At Merry Adult Day Care on 35th Avenue — which billed $25 million from 31,500 patients during the six-year period — a masked worker poked her head out of the door, wouldn't answer any questions and asked The Post to leave.

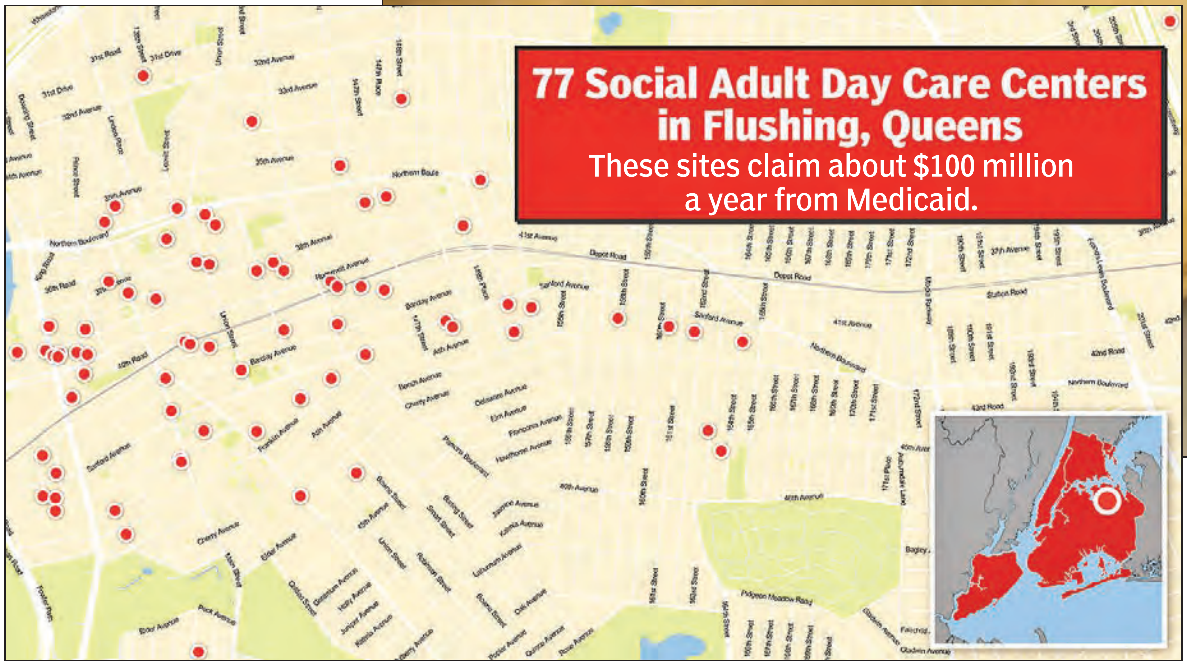
Kang Hua on Main Street billed $22 million for 25,800 unique patients; Greater New York Social and Health on Maple Avenue billed $28 million for 32,500 patients; Evergreen Adult Day Care on Roosevelt Avenue took in $32 million for 57,500 patients and Sunrise Senior Service billed a whopping $45 million for 56,800 patients.

None of those facilities has been accused of fraudulent behavior.

However, corruption and kickbacks are the norm, according to those who work in the area.

"Seniors come in and ask, 'Do you have any benefits for me?' " Kenny Chan, owner of a neighborhood pharmacy told The Post, using the local euphemism for illegal kickbacks, where seniors get a small cut of the amount the pharmacy or SADC is billing back to Medicaid.

"I say, 'No, we don't do that here.' I've lost so much business. I've had to pull money out of my own pocket to keep the business going."



77 Social Adult Day Care Centers in Flushing, Queens

These sites claim about $100 million a year from Medicaid.

Financial 'benefits'

To illustrate the point, Chan — who didn't have a single customer during a 30-minute conversation with The Post — pointed down the street to another pharmacy he claimed was a fraud site.

That tiny storefront was a hive of activity, packed with seniors and three or four workers bustling around with clipboards. Chan said there's often a line down the block to get in.

"The new pharmacies, the ones that have been here five or 10 years, they offer a lot of 'benefits.' About 60 or 70% of them have a connection with the daycare centers," he said. "If I did that, I would be very busy."

For Chan, it's not just local grannies who've pestered him about joining the hustle. He said daycare workers, other pharmacists and even doctors have approached him asking if he'd like to jump on the gravy train.

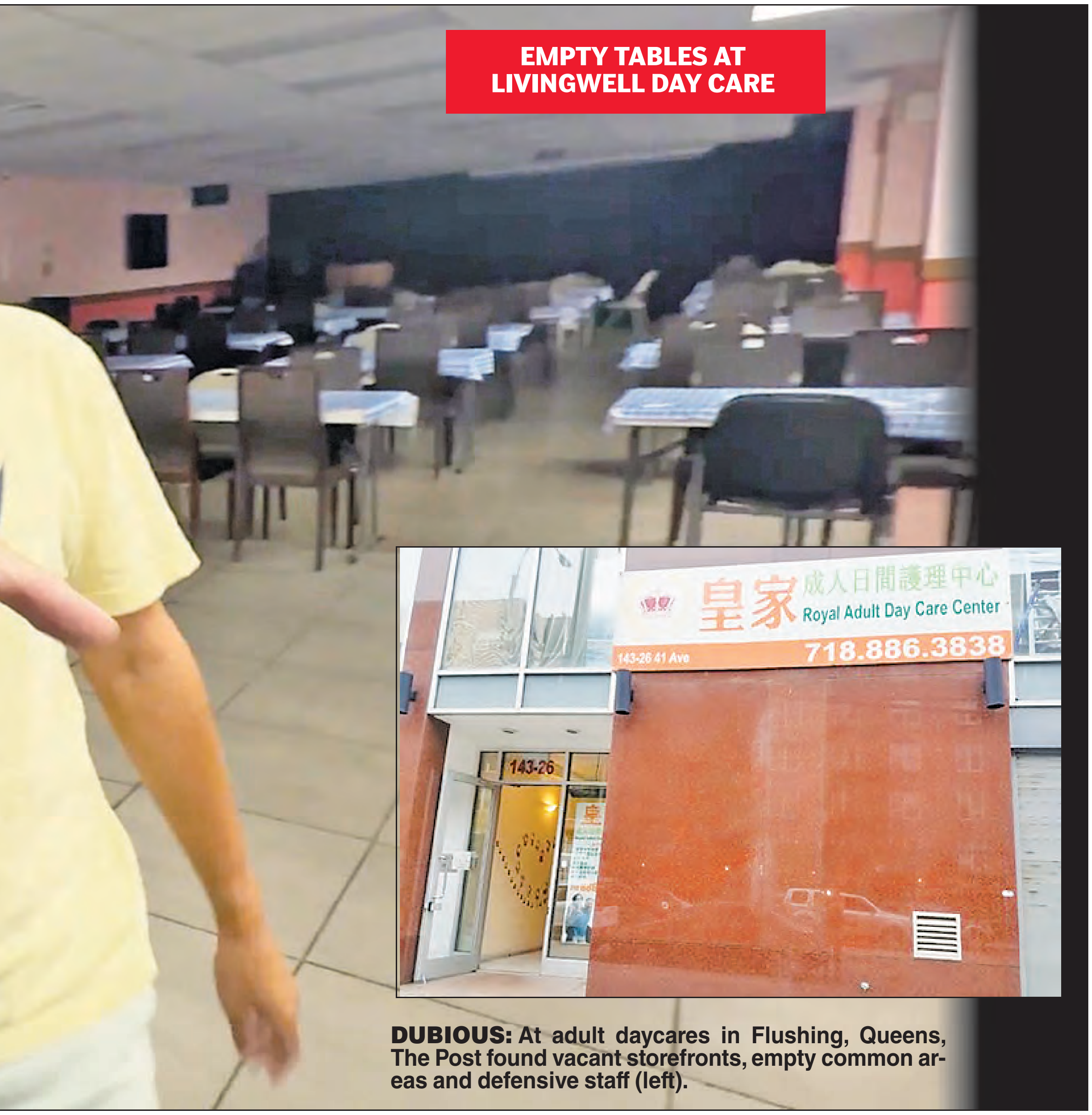
"I want them out. I'm waiting for the day they get shut down. It's not legal. It's crazy," he said.

An investigation by The Post found seniors in a typical scheme get $500-$1,000 a month in daycare kickbacks while the facility pockets upward of $3,000 a month per patient.

According to city and federal data, Flushing's SADCs billed a total of $733 million from 2018-2024, the latest year for which spending figures are available.

Confusion about the role of SADCs and what they are there to provide is one of the reasons

‘FRAUD’ IN QNS.


EMPTY TABLES AT LIVINGWELL DAY CARE
皇家 成人日間護理中心
Royal Adult Day Care Center
718.886.3838
143-26 41 Ave
143-26

DUBIOUS: At adult daycares in Flushing, Queens, The Post found vacant storefronts, empty common areas and defensive staff (left).

BLOCKED WINDOWS AT MERRY ADULT DAY CARE
永安長者日間
MERRY ADULT DAY CARE CENTER

MONITORS SHOWED NO ONE IN THE ROOMS AT BAO KANG ADULT DAY CARE
Bao Kang Adult Daycare Center
大帝國

most people turn a blind eye to them.

Key distinction

As part of Medicaid’s Managed Long-Term Care program, SADCs are intended to be exclusively for seniors with a “chronic illness or disability” who are “clinically-eligible” for “nursing home level of care,” or experience memory issues like Alzheimer’s disease or require “assistance with physical maneuvering [during] daily living,” such as eating or bathing, according to the state Department of Health.

A spokesperson for the city Department of the Aging further clarified, telling The Post: “There are important distinctions. [Senior center] membership is open to all New Yorkers ages 60 and older. [They] serve meals, and in-person and virtual activities are designed to meet the needs of their members.

“SADCs serve adults with functional impairments and need a higher level of care than [senior centers] can provide.”

However, that was not the case for dozens of SADCs visited by The Post earlier this year, where the facilities were indistinguishable from city-run senior centers, which are not a part of Medicaid.

Healthy, active seniors played ping pong and mahjong, rode stationary bikes and got lunch delivered from local restaurants — all on the taxpayers’ dime.

SADC workers, patients and even local politicians who spoke to The Post were unaware of the difference between senior centers and daycares.

State Sen. John Liu, who represents Flushing, blamed a lack of city facilities in the district.

“You come to Flushing, you cannot help but see a preponderance of older residents, older Asian residents. And with that concentration, for there to be only one senior center in downtown Flushing, that speaks to the lack of resources, which perhaps all these centers have sprung up in order to fill the void of,” he told The Post.

“I think it would be misguided to paint all of these centers with the same brush and to paint Flushing as the epicenter of this kind of fraud, if it exists.”

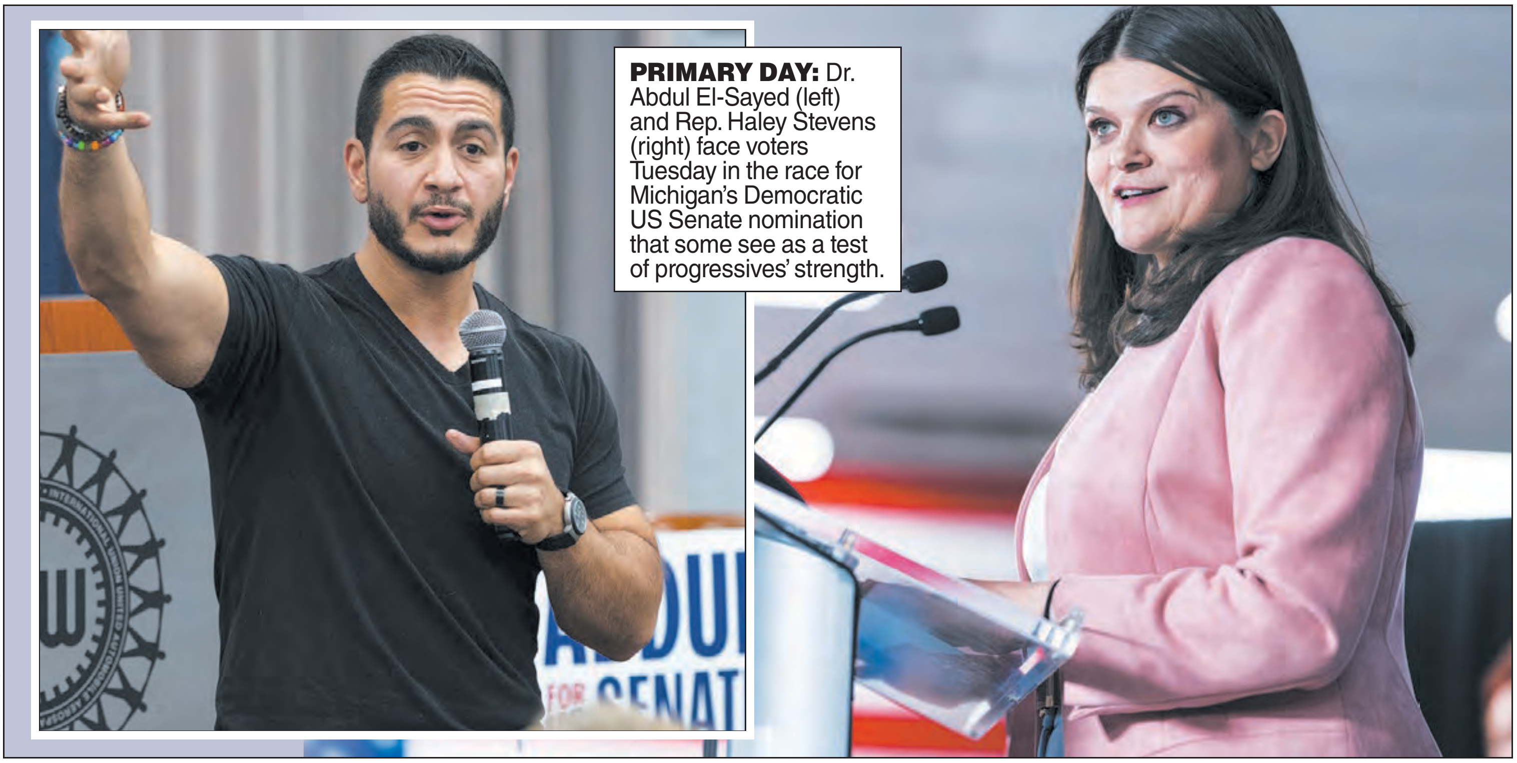
‘Criminal syndicates’

However, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz blasted New York officials for allowing fraud to fester in the state, where the $115 billion-a-year Medicaid spend is by far the highest per-person in the nation.

“Due to a lack of proper state oversight, these centers have become cash cows for criminal syndicates, who use kickbacks and other illegal practices to steal millions from Medicaid,” he told The Post.

“When Flushing, Queens, alone accounts for roughly 14% of all social adult daycare spending in New York state, it’s pretty obvious that these centers aren’t popping up solely to fulfill a legitimate need in the community.”

Dem the torpedoes



PRIMARY DAY: Dr. Abdul El-Sayed (left) and Rep. Haley Stevens (right) face voters Tuesday in the race for Michigan's Democratic US Senate nomination that some see as a test of progressives' strength.

Getty Images

Mich. sen. battle of far-left vs. center

By RYAN KING

DETROIT — Michigan's Senate race on Tuesday has turned into the battle royale between two competing visions for the Democratic Party.

The primary election between Dr. Abdul El-Sayed and Rep. Haley Stevens had been an unusually competitive swing-state matchup between a hardcore progressive and a more moderate Democrat amid the national debate between the two sides roiling the party.

The competition tests the theory whether a lefty outsider backed by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) is needed to tap into the energy of the base, or whether an established lawmaker who has supported Israel is only electable in a battleground state.

"Michigan is Ground Zero in the battle for the future of the Democratic Party — pitting corporate-funded status quo insiders against shake-up-the-system economic fighters," Adam Green, the co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, who has stumped with El-Sayed, told The Post.

Whoever wins will face off against Republican Mike Rogers in a must-win state for Democrats' chances of retaking the Senate. Rogers narrowly lost to Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) in 2024, while President Trump carried the battleground state in his march back to the White House.

El-Sayed is entering primary day as the clear favorite with a roughly 10-point lead on the RealClearPolitics aggregate.

But some polls spell trouble for him in November, including an EPIC-MRA survey that has him losing to Rogers 43% to 46%, while Stevens is winning 44% to 42%.

Still, that's a remarkable turnaround from 2018, when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) crushed him by nearly 22 percentage points in the gubernatorial primary.

'Isn't enough'

"I think one of the big differences between now and 2018 is that Trump won again in 2024, and it's proof that running these 'electable,' 'moderate' candidates isn't enough," Michael, 29, from Royal Oak who is backing El-Sayed and didn't provide his last name, told The Post.

While far-left candidates, aligned with the DSA, have won some upset victories this cycle, those wins have largely been relegated to deep-blue districts. That's true for all five of the DSA candidates who won House primaries to date.

Technically, El-Sayed isn't a member of the DSA and has insisted that he is a capitalist, not a socialist. But many DSA members and allies would undoubtedly view his victory as proof that they can compete in swing states.

During a campaign stop with retiring Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.), who endorsed Stevens alongside Whitmer, the two grumbled over how outsiders have been meddling in the Michigan race and trying to make it part of a national fight.

"There are other folks coming in from other states that look a whole lot different than Michigan that think that they know more about Michigan than we do here in Michigan, but Haley basically represents the kind of people in the Midwest who roll up our sleeves [and] get to work," Peters told The Post.

Wolverine progressives claw at House

DETROIT — Dr. Abdul El-Sayed could have some backup.

Hardcore progressives are making a play for more than just the Michigan Senate race — they are targeting four congressional races throughout the Wolverine State, ranging from deep-blue seats to rural regions.

Given Michigan's status as a swing state in the Rust Belt, moderates and the lefty faction of the Democratic Party view it as an opportunity to win back working-class voters who soured on the Dems.

Perhaps the most closely watched House primary is state Rep. Donavan McKinney's challenge against Rep. Shri Thanedar, who is one of the more liberal members of the House, sitting in the Congressional Progressive Caucus. And his Detroit-based 13th Congressional District is widely seen as a safe blue seat.

In addition to Donavan, the DSA is backing incumbent Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), who is favored to win her seat.

The DSA is also targeting the 8th District House seat held by GOP Rep. Jack Bergman. *Ryan King*

Officer dies after op

An NYPD cop died after suffering complications from breast implant removal surgery in the Dominican Republic — and now the mom-of-three's family is demanding a malpractice investigation, according to reports and authorities.

Rebecca De Paula, 31, who was named officer of the month in March at the 46th Precinct in The Bronx, contracted a bacterial infection after the cosmetic surgery at a clinic in Santo Domingo, relatives told local outlet Noticias Sin.

De Paula (inset) died early Sunday after less than two years on the force.

De Paula's mother told the outlet she rushed to the health center after learning her daughter was in serious condition — but arrived at the clinic to learn she had already died.

The young officer's family is now asking local authorities to investigate the circumstances around the sudden death, and whether medical malpractice or negligence occurred during the procedure. *Zoe Hussain*

Two deaths from 'cyclo'

The first deaths from the cyclosporiasis "explosive diarrhea" outbreak have been reported after two Michigan residents died after contracting the food-borne illness.

Both patients, who are yet to be identified, had "significant underlying health conditions," the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said.

The Food and Drug Administration believes the outbreak came from tainted iceberg lettuce from Taylor Farms de Mexico.

Authorities in the Wolverine State say they have counted more than 11,200 suspected cases as of Monday. *Anthony Blair*

SUSAN COLLINS
Wants to avoid shutdown.

Senators push deal for funds

WASHINGTON — Senate leaders are pushing lawmakers to advance a bipartisan government funding deal this week so that they can vote to avert a shutdown when the chamber returns next month from a five-week recess.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-Maine) said the continuing resolution (CR) would fund most of the government at current levels until Dec. 11, while increasing spending on certain programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children.

It also would scrap a proposed federal rule that gave the White House's Office of Management and Budget greater authority over grant funding.

A rep for Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) posted on X: "Bipartisan CR released eight-plus weeks before funding deadline. Passing it now will avert costly government shutdown in the fall." *Josh Christenson*

Coldest temp in 14 years

Last month, Earth produced its coldest temperature in 14 years.

Antarctica's Concordia research station recorded the frigid temperature of −119.4°F on July 18.

The remote research station recorded the bone-chilling temperatures twice overnight, at 6:25 a.m. and again at 6:34 a.m.

These reports are the coldest to be recorded on Earth since 2012, when temps at Russia's Vostok Station in East Antarctica reached −119.6°F. *Reda Wigle*

WNBA star's common-sense trans view

Sophie's choice to speak up

KIRSTEN FLEMING

AP

UNFAIR: WNBA star Sophie Cunningham (near right) is receiving backlash from the far left for her very mainstream view that biological men shouldn't play women's sports.

TRANS
ATHLETES
BELONG!

IMAGN IMAGES via Reuters Connect

INDIANA Fever guard Sophie Cunningham expressed a mainstream opinion in a very compassionate way, but it's been twisted beyond recognition by the ultra-illiberal world of women's sports.

In a long ESPN profile two weeks ago, she stated that while she wants to "extend love" to everyone, biological males identifying as women don't belong in girls' sports or locker rooms.

About 15 years ago, this would have been the most banal statement of all time.

But in 2026, Cunningham's reality-based declaration has made her Enemy Number One in the WNBA universe, where one must only hold the approved set of progressive politics. There, the backlash has been enormous.

The brave hoopster is now being booed by fans, branded hateful and even called "anti-black" in a Guardian piece.

Not anti-trans

All she did was answer a question from a reporter honestly.

Now she must face the wrath of loud activists, who use words like "transphobe" or "bigot" to shut down a much-needed discussion. Their labels — defanged by overuse — are deployed simply to launder their lunacy.

It's a lunacy that demands biological males have access to women's spaces or sports.

Cunningham's statement is not anti-trans; it's pro-common sense.

It isn't a right-wing belief or even controversial. It's an opinion that cuts across political lines. Maybe it's just the righties who have the stomach for being harassed by activists, so they are the ones most willing to speak up.

Don't ask for sanity from the league coaches.

During a Sunday match-up against the Fever, Minnesota Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve wore a "trans kids belong" shirt as a response to Cunningham.

And Golden State coach Natalie Nakase offered similar useless language.

"I'm all about women, little girls deserving to play, and that includes trans women," she said. "So, I'm all about inclusivity."

Sure. But trans women aren't women. They are biological males, and biology matters in both competition and safety.

Then there's Katie Nolan, who said that Cunningham doesn't "have critical-thinking skills" or she's not "interested in employing them."

It's Nolan being willfully ignorant here. In a recent episode of her podcast "Casuals," she said, "Nobody is saying we should get rid of, for example, the WNBA and the NBA, and everybody should just compete together."

She is right. I haven't heard activists screaming for the eradication of women's categories. I've only heard them demand that males identifying as women be in those categories.

This is a demand that has dominated our discourse over the last decade. There's been story after story about girls being beaten by biological men at all levels of competition, most prominently in high school.

Dissent punished

Anyone who spoke up was punished, and dissent was crushed. In 2023, a Vermont high school girls basketball team was suspended from state play after forfeiting a game against a school with a male on the girls' team. A year later, five middle schools in West Virginia who protested against a trans athlete were benched.

Last week, Seattle Storm's co-owner Celeste Keaton was suspended for five games after she berated two young girls who held a sign thanking Cunningham. One of them was Ahnaleigh Wilson, a 16-year-old from Washington who competed in the 1,600 meters at the 2024 Junior Olympics, finishing second to a trans athlete. She has competed against at least four more males.

Wilson knows what it's like to lose out to a boy — and to be cursed out by someone in the "be kind" brigade.

But why listen to a girl who was actually affected by these anti-female policies?

It's easier to call these young ladies names and say it's a fringe issue that simply doesn't exist.

‘Allahu Akbar’ chants in Ceuta

Border-rush ‘apocalypse’

By ANTHONY BLAIR

PURSUIT: Police in Ceuta try to subdue a migrant on Sunday.

Reuters

Chilling video captures the moment a mob of Muslim migrants chanting “God is great” in Arabic clashed with Spanish police in the Mediterranean enclave of Ceuta — days after more than 60,000 people bum-rushed the border.

Footage taken Sunday showed migrants yelling “Allahu Akbar” while carrying a man who was reportedly injured by police.

The army of migrants, many raising clenched fists, were seen running through the streets of Ceuta, a Spanish territory on Morocco’s Mediterranean coast.

It came after tens of thousands of migrants swam from Morocco into the Spanish city on Thursday — which is one of only two European land borders in Africa.

At least 72 people died either from drowning or the resulting stampede on the beach.

The incident has rattled the EU because the migrants, once inside the Spanish territory, would potentially be able to travel to any of the 29 countries in the Schengen Area without a visa or border checks.

As a result, Italy revoked its Schengen agreement with Spain for one month, and France stepped up its border inspections.

The invasion was reportedly triggered by social media posts in Morocco that falsely claimed migrants would be offered Spanish citizenship upon arrival.

It also came after Spain’s leftist government announced a program allowing an estimated 500,00 undocumented migrants already living in Spain to obtain work permits between April and June this year.

Permits

Spain received more first-time asylum applications than any other European Union member in 2025, with 141,000, roughly 21% of the EU total, according to official figures.

The socialist government of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez also issued the highest number of first residence permits of any EU state to non-EU citizens in 2024, according to official figures.

Spain issued more than 560,000 permits, representing 16% of total permits issued across the EU’s 29 member states, despite accounting for 11% of the EU’s total population.

Despite many of the migrants being marched back into Morocco, terrified residents in Ceuta say many interlopers, mostly young men, are still in the city, using the streets as bathrooms, sleeping outside, and bathing in public fountains.

“It’s like an apocalypse. Waves of people everywhere,” one local business owner told RTVE.

Several locals also reported suffering attempted break-ins from migrants, and Spain’s government was forced to deploy hundreds of elite soldiers to retake the city.

Hundreds of migrants also tried to enter the Spanish territory of Melilla on the same day as hordes stormed Ceuta.

Some 49,000 illegal migrants voluntarily returned to Morocco, while others were sent to detention centers by the Spanish army.

The crisis has led other European nations to tighten immigration restrictions over fears of further attempted waves of migrants.

With Wires

Cov ‘likely’ a lab leak: Biden big

Dr. Ashish Jha, the White House COVID-19 response coordinator during the Biden administration, revealed Sunday that he now favors the so-called lab leak theory as the most plausible origin story of the pandemic.

“When I went into the White House [in April 2022], my view was, this was almost surely a natural outbreak, maybe a lab leak,” Jha (inset) told CNN’s “State of the Union.”

“Based on information I learned and based on information I have seen, I have come to conclude that it is more likely to have been a lab leak,” he added.

“Here’s the bottom line: No one in the United States knows for sure. The only people who know for sure are people — officials in China, and we still need transparency and accountability on that,” concluded Jha, the former dean of Brown University’s School of Public Health.

“So that is my best assessment. I’m not suggesting I know for sure, but I’m saying my best assessment is that it probably was a lab leak.”

Later Sunday, Jha clarified that he favors the theory that the lab leak was accidental and that he warmed up to it during his time in the Biden administration.

Ryan King

Mayor hold on cameras

A former wrestling star turned Tennessee mayor has put a hold on a $1 million deal to install hundreds of Flock Safety cameras across his home county.

Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs — who had a 30-year wrestling career as Kane — has “paused” the local sheriff’s plans to install 270 Flock cameras over concerns the AI-tech violated Fourth Amendment protections of unreasonable search and seizure.

He and the sheriff are now on the same page, and the pause remains in effect until both are replaced in office next month, Jacobs added.

Brandon Cruz

Delaney detainee dies in fed custody

A 41-year-old Salvadoran national who re-entered the United States illegally has died in federal custody after being arrested in New Jersey following a previous deportation, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials announced Monday.

Edwin Lopez-Cornejo died Aug. 1 at University Hospital in Newark after suffering a medical emergency while detained at the Delaney Hall Detention Facility, according to an ICE statement.

Staff with the GEO Group, the private detention company that manages the facility, along with medical personnel, responded to the emergency and called 911.

The official cause of death remains pending a formal medical examination, according to ICE.

Lopez-Cornejo was first apprehended by US Border Patrol for entering the US without inspection on or about Aug. 13, 2006.

A Department of Justice immigration judge ordered him removed on Aug. 25, 2006, and he was deported to El Salvador on Oct. 19, 2006.

He later re-entered the US illegally on an unknown date before ICE officers arrested him in Plainfield, NJ, on June 18.

He was held at Delaney Hall pending removal pursuant to the reinstatement of his prior removal order.

ICE officials said that Lopez-Cornejo received proper medical care during his detention.

Fox News

REP. OCASIO-CORTEZ Floated as prez material.

AOC for prez rally by DSA

A national convention of Democratic Socialists of America members had attendees daydreaming about a presidential run by US Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez — while debates raged about if they should ever back a pro-Israel candidate, a new report said.

Nearly 500 card-carrying DSA members gathered in Chicago this weekend, with Mayor Mamdani's comrades outlining their "caucuses" that include names like Marxist Unity Group, Red Star, Bread and Roses and the Commie Caucus, according to The New York Times.

An offshoot crew held a separate "DSA for AOC" rally, though some of the democratic socialists wondered if the left-leaning congresswoman has drifted too far from the organization to realistically be their pick, the Times said.

The congresswoman did not attend the rally and hasn't announced any presidential bid as of yet.

Brandon Cruz

Hegseth wife's military 'duty'

WASHINGTON — Jennifer Hegseth will take charge of President Trump's commission to help military spouses address the challenges families face, including housing and unemployment.

She, her husband Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Dan Caine and a few dozen military spouses joined the president in the Oval Office on Monday, when he signed an order creating the first-ever Presidential Military Spouse Commission.

Emily Goodin

SPIDEY'S NEW NEIGHBORHOOD

Can't afford NYC

AUNT MAY HAVE TO MOVE: The Forest Hills, Queens, address (below) where Spider-Man grew up in the comic books would cost as much as $4 million today. In "Brand New Day," he's from more affordable Astoria.

Â©Sony Pictures/Courtesy Everett Collection; James Messerschmidt for NY Post

By ALEX MITCHELL

The Big Apple's cost of living is a real supervillain!

Spider-Man couldn't afford to live in New York City in real life — as sky-high 2026 prices and unaffordable real estate would force the web-slinger to live like a friendly neighborhood homeless man, experts said.

Peter Parker would have to find an uncool corner of Astoria, Queens — where he seems to live in "Spider-Man: Brand New Day," while Aunt May's comic book home in Forest Hills would cost millions, a property expert told The Post.

"That is a hot area in Forest Hills," said Kayla Lee, an associate real estate broker at Serhant about the Ingram Street home near the Jackie Robinson Parkway where Parker lived with his aunt in the comic books.

"That block is now selling for $1,200 a foot or above, so the pricing, depending on the size, are approximately $2.5 to $4 million," Lee added.

Far from home

Either way, it'll cut into the spider-purse as the cost of living is way too much for a pro bono crime fighter whose day jobs are delivering pizzas and working part-time as a photographer for the local paper.

Hopefully May got good death benefits from Uncle Ben.

She and Peter would need $300,000 "at a minimum" to afford a 30-year mortgage at the charming home — one which Lee said would come without big homeowner association fees.

Lee feels the more realistic nabe for Spidey would be trendy Astoria, which the Marvel Cinematic Universe used as a setting for the recent Tom Holland franchise films.

Spider-Man still would neither be in the lap of luxury nor a hip area. He would likely find a budget studio far from the N/W train above bustling 31st Street and closer to the East River near Hallets Cove, Lee added.

He could pull a modest $1,800 abode, and if web travel to Manhattan and the other boroughs doesn't cut it, Spider-Man could park a car for a monthly $250.

"Although it's going to be very affordable, it's not always going to fly [off the market] so quickly because it's cheap for a reason," Lee said of the area. "So it might be a lower level. It might have a blocked window."

Even outside of housing, the city's cost of living could be a nemesis more threatening than the Sinister Six.

"He would have to make $150,000," billionaire John Catsimatidis told The Post of the Web Head living comfortably while he tries to make ends meet.

The Gristedes supermarket CEO added that just groceries and related costs alone come out to about $125 a day for the hero of the box-office smash hit "Brand New Day."

No wage home

Peter Parker has been known to work jobs like delivering pizzas and selling photos to the fictional Daily Bugle.

Jobs site Indeed lists a Domino's delivery job in Queens for about $17 an hour, which on 40-hour weeks would total at a meager $35,360. ZipRecruiter notes that part-time photographers in the Big Apple can rake in around $46,327 annually.

If Peter were to have both gigs routinely, he would make well under that $150,000 mark at an estimated $81,687 — likely hoping his wealthy pal Harry Osborn would take him in.

While Spider-Man would be able to swing into the city to dodge $9 congestion pricing, his spider sense would be tingling with other annoyances — like a high-quality internet plan from Spectrum at $60 per month.

The big snafu for Holland's big-screen Spider-Man is that he passed up an MIT education for the greater good in "No Way Home," which could hurt his credit in closing a deal.

"I think the rental buildings are going to be way more strict, especially when they have the income guidelines. They're going to just do a generic credit run," Lee said.

However, the grateful people of Queens looking to rent a floor of their home could stick up for Spidey, she added.

"When you meet some of these Astoria property owners, if there's a connection and they like you and they see that you're hustling, I think there's landlords who would definitely work with somebody to get a renter," she said.

Idaho shooter's crime-railing posts

In-Out killer obsession

CRAZED GUNMAN: Ashley Garibay, an In-N-Out employee, was one of two people gunned down Saturday by Chad Williams (left), who commented on crime and gun rights on X until about a year ago.

Facebook/Ashley Garibay; X/commandante_

By GEORGIA WORRELL
and PAIGE KAHN

The Idaho In-N-Out gunman who killed two people and wounded seven others before killing himself was a college dropout who previously railed against crime in X posts, The Post can exclusively reveal.

Years before Chad Williams, 24, showed up at the new Twin Falls fast-food joint, he expressed horror at the randomness of an armed carjacking in his hometown of Waddell, Ariz.

"Last month a man pointed an AK-47 at the door of a house only streets away from my childhood home," he wrote in the Nov. 14, 2024, post. "He would have killed you or me for walking out of our front door at the wrong time."

Williams, whose X bio said that he was a "former foster care youth," and that he participated in Boys State, a leadership program for top students, in 2019, stopped posting in July 2025.

Blasted DA Bragg

He mostly commented on news, supporting tougher enforcement on crime and immigration.

Williams expressed concern about random violence in New York City, and blamed Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

"Bragg downgraded 60% of felony cases last year, including violent crimes ... New Yorkers don't feel safe in their own city," reads a message he reshared on X in November 2024. "Meanwhile, in [President] Trump's case, he elevated 34 charges to felonies ... It's time for DAs that prioritize public safety over politics."

Williams also posted about the First and Second Amendments.

"Thank you to [Florida Rep. Anna Paulina Luna] for cosponsoring HR 9534, the National Constitutional Carry Act. No one should have to beg the government to exercise a constitutionally protected right," read another post he reshared.

Williams wrote about using guns to commit crimes, during an argument over gun laws with other X users.

"Many crimes have been solved because of a traceable firearm ... This is a reason [for the government to register firearms] other than 'it's only for disarming populations' as you stated. Is it a good reason to surveil the general population? Not particularly, and another infringement," he wrote in the July 2025 thread.

Also Monday, police identified Jordan Salinas, 35, and off-duty police Officer Austin "AJ" Scott as the two armed men who intervened in the shooting.

Ready after '21 mass shoot

The good Samaritan being hailed as a "hero" for firing upon Idaho In-N-Out gunman Chad Williams in the middle of his deadly drive-thru rampage had trained for such a moment after witnessing another mass shooting.

Jordan Salinas, 35, a healthcare worker and the full-time caregiver of his brother, who uses a wheelchair, had been horseback riding with his girlfriend the morning of the shooting when the couple pulled into the Twin Falls In-N-Out location for lunch and immediately noticed something amiss.

Operating on pure instinct, Salinas (left) sprinted toward the sound of gunfire, a response he'd later refer to as "automatic" and "mechanical," he told the Idaho Statesman.

He drew his semiautomatic pistol equipped with a suppressor and engaged Williams.

Salinas raised his pistol with both hands and squeezed off a round, the first time he ever aimed his weapon at a living target, he said.

Three people were killed and seven others were wounded by Williams.

He later said he witnessed the 2021 mass shooting at the Boise Towne Square mall, in which two people were killed and several more were wounded. *Chris Nesi*

Cartel boss in 'slay' rap

A Mexican cartel leader who allegedly ordered a TikTokker's live-streamed murder because she and his son had broken up has been arrested.

Ramón Ángel Álvarez Ayala, a senior figure in the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, was captured by special forces in downtown Atotonilco el Alto, Jalisco, on Thursday, Mexican outlet Excelsior reported.

He was also wanted in the assassination of Carlos Manzo, the mayor of Uruapan who was killed during a Day of the Dead festival in November 2025.

Fashion and beauty influencer Valeria Marquez was killed in her Jalisco beauty salon in May 2025 when a gunman stormed the business and shot her in the chest and head.

Marquez was broadcasting to her tens of thousands of followers when the assassin entered the salon and could be heard asking off camera if her name was Valeria.

The 23-year-old's body then slumped onto the table and a woman could be seen rushing to turn the livestream off.

Cops have not yet arrested son Francisco Álvarez or the gunman who carried out the assassination.

Chris Bradford

'Drunk' in wrong car

A boozed-up Long Island bar rat was allegedly so hammered that she got into the wrong car as she left a local watering hole and sped away as an unwitting fast-and-furious car thief, officials said.

Ariel Salgado, 35, was blasted on a combination of drugs and alcohol when she left a Patchogue bar on Saturday and took off in a gray 2020 Mazda CX-5 with the keys in it identical to her own vehicle, the Suffolk County Sheriff's office alleges.

Salgado was arrested and charged with driving while ability impaired among other charges. *Brandon Cruz*

TODD BLANCHE
Rescinds 'victims' fund.

GOP rebs to clear AG nom

Sens. John Cornyn and Thom Tillis confirmed Monday they will vote to advance Todd Blanche's nomination for Attorney General out of the Senate Judiciary Committee after the acting DOJ chief formally terminated a $1.776 billion fund established earlier this year for victims of purported government weaponization.

"From the outset, we were clear that we needed a written document addressing our concerns on the IRS audit agreement and the anti-weaponization fund," Cornyn (R-Texas) and Tillis (R-NC) said in a joint statement.

The Judiciary panel, chaired by Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), scheduled the vote on Blanche for Tuesday morning.

Late Sunday, the acting AG formally rescinded a May 18 order establishing the anti-weaponization fund, declaring that it "shall have no force or effect."

Samuel Chamberlain

NoKo sees US 'cyber' smear

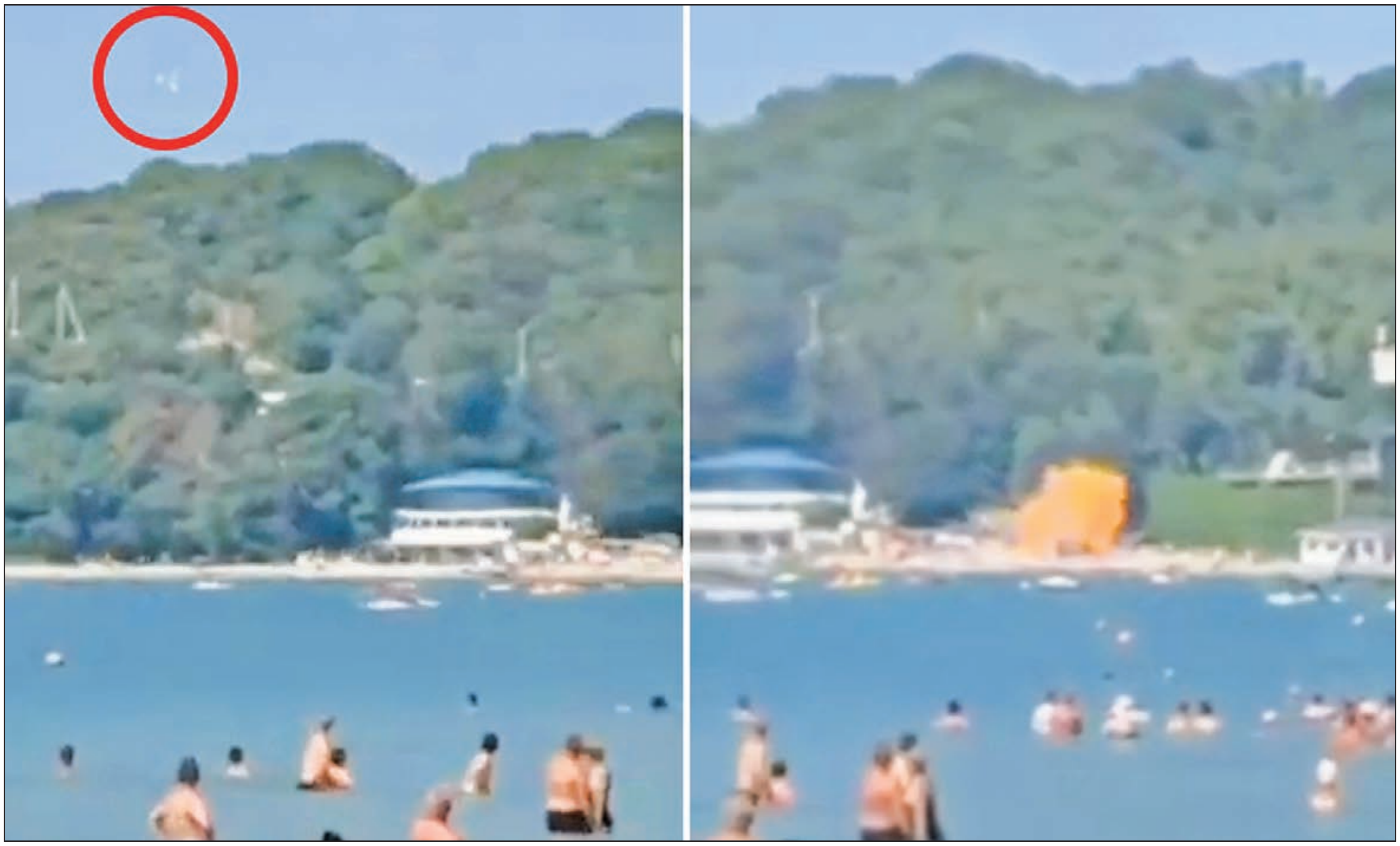
North Korea accused the US and its allies of using unfounded accusations about its cyber activities to tarnish its image and justify pressure on sovereign states, state media KCNA reported on Tuesday, citing a foreign ministry spokesperson.

In a separate editorial carried by KCNA on Tuesday, a North Korean military commentator accused the US, South Korea and Japan of turning the US-led RIMPAC naval exercise into a rehearsal for aggression.

Reuters

INVASION

BEACH BLAST



Storyful

SHORE SHOCK: Seven people died and 40 were hurt Monday when a Ukrainian drone (circled) hit a Russian beach (right) on the Black Sea.

Ukr. drone crash kills 7 in Russia

By ANTHONY BLAIR

Seven people, including three children, were killed Monday on a Russian beach after a Ukrainian drone reportedly went off course and crashed close to Vladimir Putin's secret $1 billion palace.

Shocking video shows the small, plane-shaped object plummet from the sky and hit the ground in a fiery explosion at the Black Sea resort city of Gelendzhik, in Krasnodar Oblast.

At least seven people are believed to have died, according to local authorities, as reported by the BBC's Ukrainian-language news service.

A further 40 people were reported to have been injured, including children, with 21 of the wounded being rushed to nearby hospitals, according to the Krasnodar Region Operations Headquarters.

The beach was packed with vacationers at the time.

Russian authorities claimed the victims were killed by falling debris from the drone, accusing Ukraine of attacking "civilian infrastructure," according to Krasnodar Governor Veniamin Kondratyev.

However, several local media outlets reported that the unmanned aircraft crashed after it was jammed and shot down by Russian air defenses.

"It would be strange to see such an aerial tumble during a standard operation based on faulty coordinates," Kirill Mikhailov, a Russian military analyst, told Agentstvo, per The Times.

Gelendzhik, roughly 250 to 300 miles from the Ukrainian border, is also home to an expansive palace belonging to Putin.

The Russian tyrant reportedly spent the equivalent of $956 million to complete his private resort in 2022, according to an investigation and documentary from the late opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Near rocket plant

The beach is also located next to a branch of one of Russia's key rocket and space production companies, the NVO Machine-Building Company, according to a report in the publication Agency.

Ukraine has yet to comment on the incident, and has not said what the drone's target was.

Anti-war activist leaves Russia 'for time being'

Russian anti-war politician Boris Nadezhdin said on Monday that he had left the country for the time being, weeks after Moscow designated him a "foreign agent" and disqualified him from running in a parliamentary election.

"Hi everyone! I have some good news. I'm alive and free. Unfortunately, I'm not in Russia at the moment," Nadezhdin, standing in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, said in a short video posted on Telegram.

His departure marks the loss of yet another prominent opposition voice willing to challenge the Kremlin from inside Russia, with most critics of President Vladimir Putin now either in jail or in exile.

Reuters

Zas loses happy camper bid

DAVID Zaslav fought a good fight, but not even $80 million could push him over the finish line within the camp war that's rocking New York's wealthy Westchester County.

The Warner Bros. CEO was hoping to save his kids' camp after "summer camp kings" brothers **Michael** and **David Shabsels**' $400 million summer camp empire went bankrupt. Zaslav initially bid $68 million on Mohawk Day Camp — the camp his adult children attended in their youth — and the bidding war was so intense that Zaslav upped it to a whopping $80 million, we're told.

Unfortunately, that still wasn't enough. We hear several entities stepped up, with one alleged real estate hedge funder offering nearly $100 million for the camp.

A source familiar with the bid told Page Six the reason Zaslav increased his bid was that he "wanted to keep it as a family tie."

Zaslav previously told Page Six, "This is a personal family investment that reflects our lifelong belief that summer camp can be a wonderful part of a child's growth, and Mohawk's history as a successful camp experience for so many kids, including our own."

Mohawk is one of the 30 camps that was thrust into bankruptcy at the start of the summer, kicking off a battle among real estate "sharks," camp alumni, healthcare moguls and wealthy media execs like Zaslav to grab a piece.

There's a fear within the camp partner community that outsiders are only interested in taking over the land and pushing them out.

"Some of them claim they only want to be silent partners, but they really want to change these camps that have been operating for generations," a source said.

Hedge funds, such as Rubric Capital and **Sam Drazin** of Drazin Capital, are also "scooping up camps" from the Shabsels' bankrupt properties.

We hear principals from those funds set up American Youth Camping to bid on at least five properties, including $14.6 million for Camp Echo and $5.4 million for North Star.

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Barnum & Bail-Ye

KANYE West and his barely clothed wife, **Bianca Censori**, caused a "circus" in a place known for partying. They were spotted at Casa Jondal and DC10 in Ibiza, with a source telling us Censori "is all but naked everywhere, dancing on tables while Kanye videos her." The source said, "They are making a scene. There is no question when he walks in a room, he is creating a circus," and noted the pair "clearly reveled in all the attention everyone gave them." One photo shows Censori in a sheer body suit. Elsewhere on the Spanish isle, **Leonardo DiCaprio** and his gal pal, **Vittoria Ceretti**, took the opposite approach, with Leo trying to go incognito under his ball cap.

In a 'Fury' on set

SCOTT Eastwood detailed his on-set confrontation with "psychopath" **Shia LaBeouf** while the two starred in the 2014 film "Fury." "Shia is clearly tormented and has maybe got some stuff going on," Eastwood (above) said on the "Armchair Expert" podcast yesterday. "One day, he was having an episode and thought I shouldn't be spitting tobacco on the tank, which was in the script, and then I finally said … 'F--k you. Stop pulling your s--t.' I said, 'I'm gonna whoop your ass.'" Eastwood, 40, said co-star **Brad Pitt** had to break up the "tense moment." Page Six has reached out to LaBeouf's rep.

Charlize Theron is steering *clear* from convention on her epic voyage to Seoul, South Korea, for an "Odyssey" press conference.

Photo by Han Myung-Gu/WireImage

Hunt for Hole truth

KURT Cobain's widow **Courtney Love** once demanded that the police file on his death be handed to her, with no copies left at the Seattle Police Department, according to a newly unearthed document, reports The Post's **Alex Diaz**. Cobain's widow made the request Oct. 20, 1995, about a year and a half after he was found dead with a gunshot wound to the head. Investigators declared Cobain's death a suicide, which Love concurred with, but researchers who believe it was a homicide have campaigned to get the case reopened. It emerged that a lawyer acting for the Hole singer wrote to the Seattle police chief in 1995 seeking all investigation files regarding Cobain's death. "This letter is to request that the complete investigation file of the Seattle Police Department pertaining to Mr. Cobain's death be delivered to me, with no further records or copies to remain with the Department," lawyer **Bryan Coluccio** wrote in the missive discovered by researchers for the "Who Killed Kurt?" group. Coluccio said the request was made because "several persons" tried to make money from the "sale and distribution of material pertaining" to Cobain's death. Reps for Love, the SPD and Coluccio didn't respond to requests for comment.

'Dark' days over

BRUCE Springsteen celebrated wife **Patti Scialfa** being cancer-free over eight years after she was diagnosed with blood cancer. The "Dancing in the Dark" singer shared the news Saturday during a virtual appearance at Boston's Pan-Mass Challenge fund-raiser, which raises money for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. "Patti's been living with her multiple myeloma for over eight years, but now, thankfully, she is in remission," he said. Springsteen, 76, lauded her medical team and said he could see the work happening at Dana-Farber "every single day" Scialfa (above) underwent treatment. Scialfa, 73, was diagnosed with cancer in 2018 but kept it secret until 2024, when she appeared in the documentary "Road Diary: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band."

Laurens finish home dress-up

RALPH and **Ricky Lauren** have just wrapped up a multimillion-dollar makeover on their sprawling oceanfront Montauk compound, a source tells Page Six. Over the decades, the fashion icon has quietly assembled a nearly 10-acre estate by snapping up three adjoining properties, including the former home of legendary "Zoo Story" playwright Edward Albee, which Lauren purchased for $16 million in 2018. We hear that the fashionable couple's children **David** and candy shop owner **Dylan** also have properties on the compound. When it comes to the renovations, a source told us, "It's like living in a Ralph Lauren store. It's so perfect," describing the aesthetic as "simple, understated and chic." A rep for Lauren declined to comment. According to reports, the property features two tennis courts and two swimming pools. Lauren purchased the first spot — a home built in 1940 by Frank Lloyd Wright associate Antonin Raymond — sometime in the early 1980s. The couple is known to be private and family-focused, with a source telling us they tend to avoid the area's social scene.

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Feb 11, 2026

Page Six Hollywood

By Ian Mohr

Welcome to Page Six Hollywood...

In today's newsletter, we have a mix of news that only P6H can provide!

Writer at Large **Tatiana Siegel** looks at the controversy surrounding **Casey Wasserman** after another recording artist exited his agency on Tuesday in the wake of the bombshell Epstein data dump, as well as his alleged feud with WME superagent **Ari Emanuel.**

We deployed Senior Columnist **Peter Kiefer** on a

If it's your business to stay in the know, Page Six Hollywood is a must:

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We're being Left behind

Cindy Adams

DEFINITION of a communist: One who shares his nothing with everybody.

Having one another as staffers, commies don't need enemies.

Newspaper Pravda ran a contest for the best political joke. First prize? Twenty years.

Our locals are moving. Every third human in the Hamptons is a Realtor.

Business in the city is now so bad that people who won't even pay stopped buying.

Thanks to Zero Crapdammy our city — once almost 9 million — has nearly 8 million on the LIE.

In a synagogue now you keep eyes closed at your own risk.

Russia's credit card slogan is sweet: "Don't leave home."

Locally everything's downhill. If an employee asks the boss, "What goes?" He'll say, "You!"

Seniors are rushing South. Florida is now populated by hungry young alligators driving old people's cars and whatever/whoever/whichever new duties they might suddenly need to attend to like if whatever becomes necessary to suddenly attend to — like — late at night. Like late. Late. Suddenly.

The men? All bald. Palm Beach barbers envy clients with hair — to them dandruff is a thrill.

And new arrivals go where when they get there? To an art gallery where canvasses are in crayon. Or a late 4:30 dinner which is for ketchup on your sneakers.

Andrea Renault/ZUMA/SplashNews

Mayor **Zohran Mamdani** and similar far left politicians are ruining New York.

Before Crapdammy, some friends had an all encompassing program designated to reach certain investment goals during the next five years — like getting even. Their company just closed. They're now on the list for a Secaucus timeshare.

Neighborhood banks are failing. Forget a camera that photographs pictures of bank robbers. Mine now has a guy who does charcoal sketches.

One dude spent a year opening new bank accounts. Got free radios, toasters, TVs, luggage, pots, pans, dishes. Last week he gave back his deposit and opened his own discount house.

New York's so ruined that one hustler asked a passerby for 20 bucks. Passerby: "20 dollars? That's a lot to request." Hustler: "Yeah, but I want to quit early tonight."

Cheap? This mayor gets angry when gum machines won't take credit cards.

Everyone's trying to save money. The commie to his unfaithful wife: "Stand behind your lover. I'm going to shoot you both."

Major commercial on Moscow TV: "You asked for it, you got it — hard labor."

Note: Capitalism is when your wife owns everything. Crapdammy's is when the State does.

Major game in Crapdammy's favorite Siberia: "Hide and stay hidden."

A comedian friend of our mini-mayor insisted on getting married in a bathtub. Why? He wanted a double ring ceremony.

Only in New York, kids, only in New York.

Set for doom boom

LISTEN up, world:

The city that never sleeps is sleeping. This BS crappy mayor talker is *not!* only into free buses, freezing rents, extra taxes and empty bodegas. NOT!!! Will our NYC smartguys — our brains, our Realtors, our business geniuses — not listen? His aim is to *destroy* New York. Kill it. Deaden it. Ruin it. Wipe it out. Close it. Shut it down. Stop it. Neutralize it.

Don't just pay no attention. He hates success. Hates the rich. Hates Jewish people. His intent is to *ruin* New York.

Golden Tate a gilt-y pleasure

Tate McRae closes out her Lollapalooza set at Chicago's Grant Park on Sunday with her hit, "Sports Car," dripping in gold paint after emerging from a bath filled with the glittering coating. The singer-songwriter has sported gold outfits at events recently.

Getty Images (2)

$57M RED LIGHT REFUND

Suffolk cam settle

By BRANDON CRUZ

Suffolk County must shell out up to nearly $60 million to settle a lawsuit over the $30 "administration fee" it slapped on its now-defunct red-light-camera tickets, according to a new settlement.

The long-awaited Long Island pact, reached this week, will reimburse drivers up to $57.5 million — or as much as $36 per ticket they received between 2013 and 2023 — for the illegal fees that the administration of former County Executive Steve Bellone tacked on to each ticket.

"We are pleased to have reached a resolution that is fair to the members of the class while also protecting the interests of Suffolk County taxpayers," said Christopher Clayton, the lawyer for the plaintiffs in the class-action suit.

"This litigation began during the prior administration and has been both lengthy and complex — this settlement brings this matter to a responsible conclusion and allows the County to move forward," he said.

For the 10-year period between 2013 and 2023, Suffolk County collected a $50 fine from drivers who ran a red light — but then tacked on another $30 "administrative fee," which was found to be illegal by a state appellate court in 2024.

The class-action lawsuit, first filed in 2016, sought to recover the millions of dollars that Suffolk and Nassau counties both pocketed through the added surcharge.

Under the newly approved settlement, Suffolk County agreed to repay drivers up to $36 for each ticket — $30 for the administrative fee and $6 in interest — but that amount could be less depending on how many drivers apply for reimbursements.

Nassau charged $100

The pot stays at $57.5 million regardless, and it's unclear how many people will seek reimbursements.

Neighboring Nassau County, which tacked on an exorbitant $100 in illegal fees per ticket until 2024, is still fighting its own case in court in an effort to avoid having to pay back $400 million.

As part of the newly reached agreement, Suffolk will pay up to $45 million in total to ticketed drivers on top of the program's administrative costs and another $12.5 million in lawyer fees.

Eligible Suffolk drivers will soon receive a mailer noting they were victimized by the county's cash grab and that they can cash in by applying for a refund through the directions on the flyer.

Current County Executive Ed Romaine ended Suffolk's red-light-camera program at the end of his first year in office in December 2024, not long after the appellate ruling found the added fees to be illegal.

NYC camping lottery

Sleep under the stars, as camping in Central Park starts Aug. 14.

The NYC Parks Department has just rolled out a lottery for family camping all around New York City, where lucky winners may camp overnight with its Urban Park Rangers as their hosts and guides. From Aug. 8 until Sept. 18, folks can post up for some good ol' family-friendly camping programs.

Some parks will feature ranger-led nighttime hikes through the woods, storytelling and s'mores. Tents will be provided, and campers will only need to bring sleeping bags and bedding.

The overnight camping events are all across New York City's parks and on a rolling basis. Applications must be submitted via the lottery. *Aurielle Weiss*

NYC hosps are just what doc ordered

By PATRICE PECK

Three New York City-area hospitals on Tuesday earned coveted spots on U.S. News & World Report's annual "honor roll," reserved for the nation's top 20 hospitals delivering exceptional care across multiple specialities.

NYU Langone Hospitals, Mount Sinai Hospital, and New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia and Cornell were recognized in the publication's Best Hospitals rankings.

The three also tied for the No. 1 spot among the best regional hospitals in the New York metro area.

U.S. News reviewed nearly 4,500 hospitals across 14 adult specialties and 23 procedures and conditions. Just 16% earned a Best Hospitals designation.

NYU Langone Health maintained the nation's highest number of No. 1–ranked specialties and top-10 specialties, with 12 of its 13 ranked clinical specialties placing in the top 10.

"NYU Langone achieved these top rankings through our talented and dedicated care teams," said Dr. Alec C. Kimmelman, CEO of NYU Langone Health.

Langone also retained the No. 1 ranking in neurology and neurosurgery for the fifth consecutive year, and cardiology, heart and vascular surgery for the second straight year.

NYU Langone also received high-performing designations in all 23 procedures and conditions. The recognition extends to NYU Langone's Tisch Hospital, Kimmel Pavilion, and NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital in Manhattan, as well as NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island and NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn.

New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia and Cornell ranked among the nation's top five in eight specialties and, with ophthalmology joining the list for the first time this year, became the only New York hospital to place in the top 20 across all 14 specialties.

It also continues to be recognized as a Best Regional Hospital for Community Access.

"This achievement reflects the extraordinary dedication, expertise and compassion of our physicians, nurses, and teams," Dr. Brian G. Donley, president and chief executive officer told The Post

Mount Sinai ranked in the top five in two specialities — cardiology, heart and vascular surgery and geriatrics — while also placing in the top 10 for cancer. It was also recognized as a Best Regional Hospital for Community Access.

"This recognition reflects efforts . . . to build teams of physicians, nurses, and other care team members who place patient safety, quality, and experience at the center of everything we do," Dr. David L. Reich, chief clinical officer of the Mount Sinai Health System, told The Post.

Trump: Pirro 'choked'

President Trump on Monday accused US Attorney Jeanine Pirro of folding "like an umbrella" for dismissing charges against former Olympian David Hearn — rather than standing by the case that alleged the canoeist vandalized the Reflecting Pool on the National Mall.

"The judge was extremely unfriendly to Jeanine and frankly, I think she choked," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Monday. "The judge was really vicious. Instead of going after the people that did it, the judge went after her and went after her department, and I guess she choked."

"I was disappointed in Jeanine Pirro. Really disappointed in Jeanine Pirro," he added. "She folded like an umbrella."

Pirro's office submitted the motion to dismiss on Friday, arguing the Department of Interior, led by Secretary Doug Burgum, "provided less than fulsome information at the outset of this case."

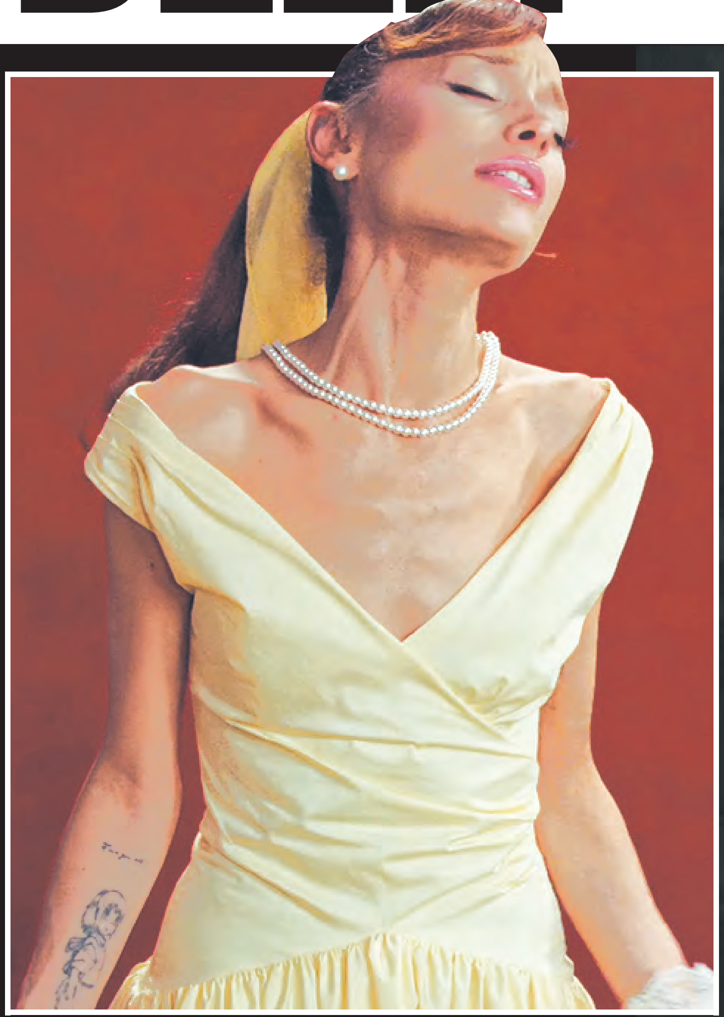
However, Trump, who pushed for the renovations at the Reflecting Pool — even personally supervising them — focused his ire on Pirro.

"Pirro made a mistake. There was vandalism," he said. "People get away with things, and it's a disgrace." *Emily Goodin*

PROBLEM

Shrinking star a dangerous role model

ALLISON LAX



OVER the last three years, Ariana Grande has shrunk before our eyes.

And we need to talk about it, no matter how uncomfortable it might make us feel to pick apart a person's body.

Because hundreds of millions of people across the world follow Grande on social media, many of them young, impressionable girls — and their developing body image and mental health depends on it.

And because Grande herself has invited the conversation, writing and filming a music video in which she brutally murders a tableful of men who have picked apart her body and her image.

She might have intended to use the film for her new single "Petal" to shut the conversation down, but how could we not talk about the fact her protruding collarbones and skeletal body were the most dominant feature of the entire video?

Song of silence

At 33 years old, Grande was already alarmingly thin during her "Wicked" and "Wicked: For Good" press tours in 2024 and 2025.

Then during her recent Eternal Sunshine tour, it was impossible not to notice her twig-like, gaunt and, yes, scary-looking body.

But it was her latest "Petal" video that became the hardest to ignore. In it, Grande plays Pepper, a Hollywood hopeful who is told again and again by casting directors that she is not good enough.

As the group of men critique her looks and her weight, one character scrawls a note (despite Grande's obviously skeletal form) that Pepper "couldn't hurt to lose a few pounds."

Eventually, Grande's character — a literal shadow of her former self — snaps and, with a roaring chainsaw, hacks her row of critics gorily to death, emerging blood-spattered and victorious.

But the alarmingly thin state of her body obscures any intended message of self- or female-empowerment the music video might have to offer.

And it's even more disturbing when you see her in scenes standing or sitting next to an army of almost rudely healthy other women.

Message to young girls

Yes, it would be easier to say nothing and to appease her fans who say we should leave her alone.

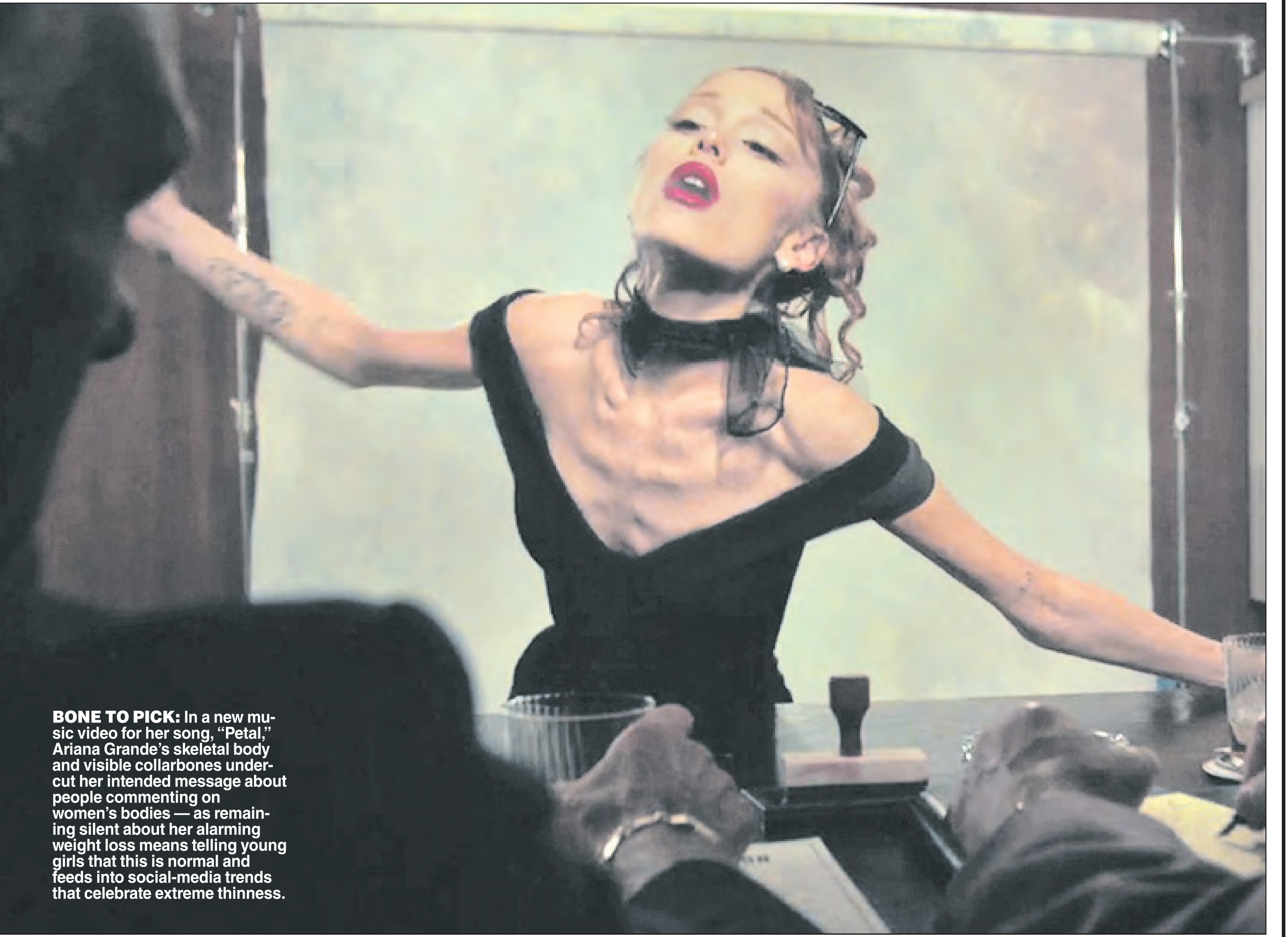
But the message that would send to our younger sisters, cousins and daughters is that this is normal.

That it's OK for them to question why their bodies don't look like hers. That no one else will stand in their way if they try to emulate her look.

As a 29-year-old woman who started to struggle with body image issues as a young teen and still deals with them to this day, it breaks my heart that we would stand by and stay silent.

While the specific, personal reasons behind Grande's weight loss are not — or at least

ON GRANDE SCALE



BONE TO PICK: In a new music video for her song, "Petal," Ariana Grande's skeletal body and visible collarbones undercut her intended message about people commenting on women's bodies — as remaining silent about her alarming weight loss means telling young girls that this is normal and feeds into social-media trends that celebrate extreme thinness.

shouldn't be — any of the public's business, our girls need to know that this shape for a body is not the norm.

What's more, they need to know that it's OK — and more importantly, healthy — if their body doesn't look so thin. And that frail or sickly is certainly not the goal.

To question this growing societal idea of thinness equaling goodness, success and desirability doesn't feel like being a busybody to me. Instead, I maintain that it's a valid concern for the mental health of the girls we love most.

Vital conversation

The reality is that our girls are watching — quite literally, constantly, on social media as their idols are fed to them on Instagram and TikTok and Pinterest.

And we owe it to them to have these conversations, no matter how much ire they provoke, provided we have the necessary empathy, compassion and critical eye to conduct them properly.

Perhaps model and body-positivity activist Charli Howard said it best in her recent Instagram post on Grande's latest project, when she referenced her past as an eating-disorder survivor and expressed how "vital" it is that we discuss content like this, along with the damage they can cause to women and girls.

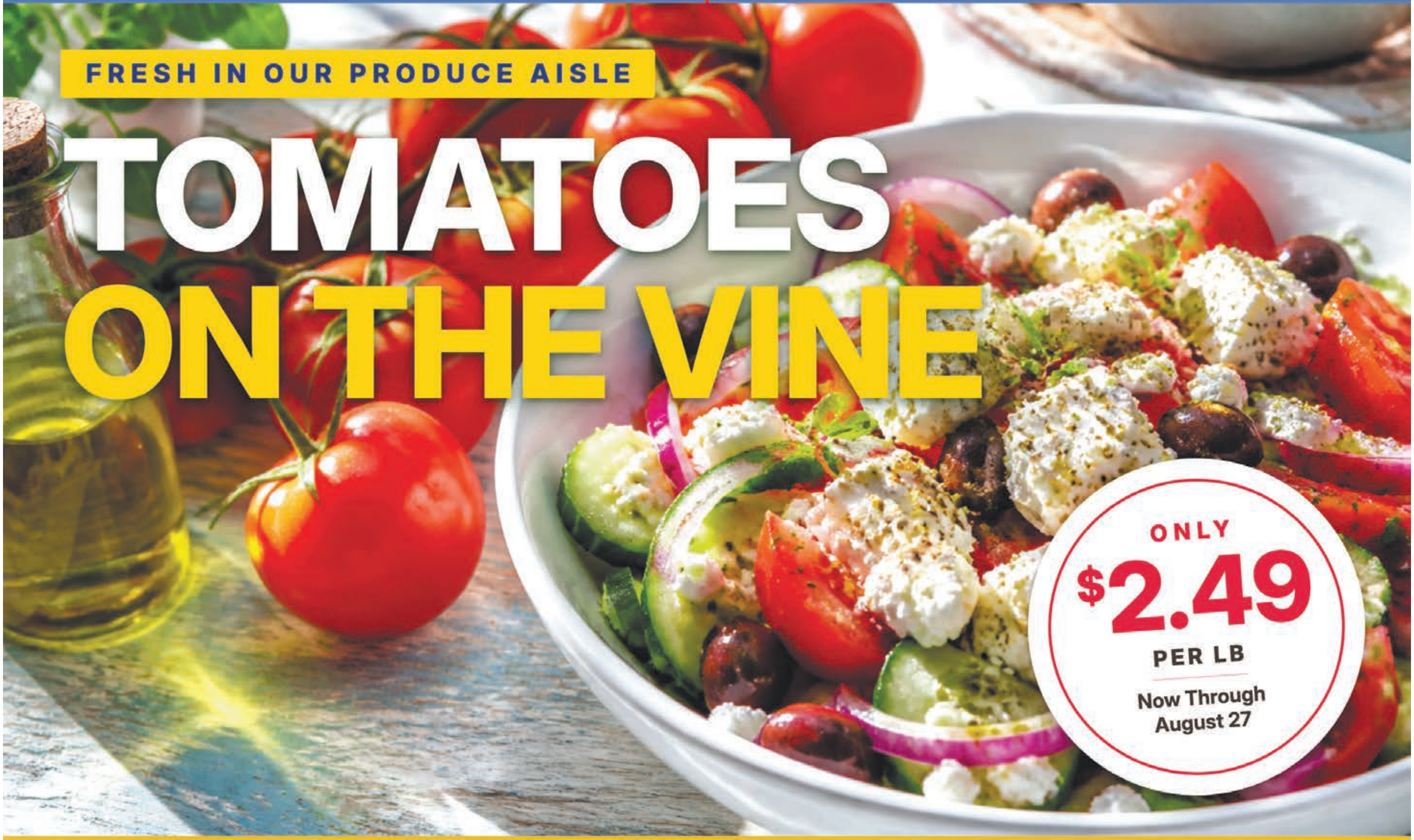
"WHAT YOU SEE HERE IS NOT NORMAL," posted Howard. "Over the last few weeks, as images of Ariana's concert get plastered around online, I obviously see comments from worried fans, but I also see other people convincing others that she looks 'healthy,' or that she has simply 'lost puppy fat.' Some even make jokes about it.

"What I see is someone in desperate need of hospitalisation and care," she continued, though it should be noted that neither Grande nor any of her reps have ever publicly confirmed any kind of eating disorder or health issue.

But with the uptick of SkinnyTok, a growing focus on weight-loss-inducing peptides (even for teens) and the normalization of thin-is-in culture, it is that much more important for the young and impressionable in our lives to see a proper role model they can go to for inspiration, both aesthetically and values-wise.

Gristedes

D'AGNYC



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Mangione demands telecast

Lights, camera, Luigi?

Luigi Mangione wants as many people as possible to watch his upcoming Manhattan murder trial — demanding it be broadcast live and that a judge take other measures to increase media access to the headline-grabbing case.

The 28-year-old accused killer of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson last week urged state Supreme Court Justice Gregory Carro to ensure his trial is livestreamed — or otherwise give an explanation for why the public won't get to watch the case in real time.

Jury selection in the case is set to start Sept. 8.

Mangione also asked the court to show the trial on a live "overflow" feed within the courthouse so that all journalists or members of the public who turn up to watch will be able to follow the action.

"A criminal defendant's essential right to a public trial, covered by all news reporters seeking to do so, is essential . . . to the basic administration of justice," his lawyers wrote to the court Friday.

Live broadcast footage of New York criminal trials is typically banned by the state court system — to protect defendants such as Mangione. *Ben Kochman*

Fires raging on in Wash.

Wildfires raging on the outskirts of Spokane, Wash., for a third day have destroyed at least 700 buildings and forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes in and around the state's second-most populous city, officials said on Monday.

The cluster of three blazes ranks as the top firefighting priority in the US, including the drought-parched Pacific Northwest, where dozens of major wildfires have been burning for weeks, degrading air quality across a wide region.

The Spokane-area fires have scorched more than 8,000 acres since erupting on Saturday. *Reuters*

LOOK OUT, DEADBEATS

TOOK A HIT: The Las Vegas HOA for boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. (left) said he owed $25,000 in dues. Many HOAs are getting more assertive about payment.

NY Post: Charles Wenzelberg

HOAs get aggressive as bills mount

By LAUREN ELKIES SCHRAM

America's homeowners associations are running out of money — and patience.

Amid rising insurance premiums, drained reserve funds and increased safety measures in the wake of the Surfside condominium collapse in Florida, the country's hundreds of thousands of homeowners associations are cracking down on delinquent residents.

Even more startling, HOAs are skipping grace periods and handing delinquent accounts over to attorneys.

HOA foreclosures spiked nearly 40% in two years to 6,376 properties in the first quarter, according to real estate analytics firm Attom, as reported by The Wall Street Journal, putting its pace ahead of that of overall mortgage foreclosure rates.

These foreclosure sales are "like most foreclosures in that they are typically an auction," California attorney Kirk Pearson, who represents homeowners in HOA disputes, told The Post.

"If the property is sold at auction, the homeowner has a 90-day right to redemption where they can buy the property back by paying any delinquent amounts plus any collection fees and costs. If there are no bidders at the foreclosure sale, then the HOA takes ownership of the property. The HOA can then keep the property, sell it, transfer it to the bank where there is a senior lien holder, or allow bank foreclosure."

Part of the bill

A homeowner is often expected to clear their delinquent dues, fees and legal costs during the redemption period following a foreclosure sale.

"In some states, like Pennsylvania, the homeowner has no 'right of redemption,' which means at the fall of the hammer at a sheriff's sale, the homeowner no longer has a right to pay off the debt," Stephen M. Hladik, who has a Pennsylvania-based mortgage foreclosure legal practice, said to The Post.

"HOA foreclosure sales can be subject to various liens and encumbrances, and a buyer should do research to see what types of liens there are against the property, and whether those liens survive the foreclosure sale."

Missed dues are often only a fraction of the bill — the real burden comes from ballooning collection costs, Pearson said. HOAs frequently outsource delinquencies to specialized collection firms that profit by tacking heavy fees onto outstanding balances.

Worse, those firms are often owned by the same corporate attorneys advising the HOA, the California attorney noted. That gives the HOA's legal team a lucrative financial reason to aggressively pursue foreclosures instead of helping residents resolve their debt.

Millions of Americans are part of HOA communities, where dues are rising.

"HOAs are being forced into more aggressive collections to avoid their own financial collapse," Brian Fox, co-founder of real estate technology firm Benutech, told the Journal.

Families in Magnolia Cove, an 80-home community outside Charlotte, NC, are contending with the increase in their monthly homeowners association dues from $350 to $1,250, with a $10,000 special assessment tacked on for good measure.

In 2025, HOAs filed over 285,000 liens, up about 8.8% from a year earlier, Benutech, which tracks HOA delinquency trends and foreclosures, told the Journal.

Besides delinquencies, costs have been rising for HOAs in insurance premiums, staffing, lawn care and materials. The annual insurance premium at one Long Island HOA surged to $360,000 from $60,000.

Hurting values

Plus, there's the expense of meeting stricter safety measures, which were instituted in the wake of the partial collapse of the Champlain Towers South condo, a 2021 tragedy that claimed 98 lives.

As unpaid dues trigger legal battles and delayed upkeep, the mounting cash crunch isn't just threatening individual homeowners — it's tanking property values for entire neighborhoods.

In many states, "super priority" laws even let HOAs foreclose over unpaid dues before banks can.

Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s Las Vegas home was saddled with $25,000 in unpaid dues starting in January 2025, plus interest and legal fees, the WSJ found.

Mayweather's attorney said the unpaid dues stemmed from an accounting oversight that has since been settled following a recent overhaul of the boxer's financial team.

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♌ LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

Just because your head is full of great ideas does not mean you have to implement them all in one go. Even a Leo has limits, and if you limit yourself to one major goal today, you will reach that goal sooner than you expected.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

A friend may be out of order in some of the things they've been saying about you, but if you think about it for a bit, you will have to admit they are at least partially correct in their appraisal. There's no need to be afraid of criticism.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Venus moves into your sign on Thursday, after which you will be so laidback in your dealings with the world that you may at times appear to be asleep! Between now and then, make a major effort to get outstanding tasks completed.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

There is a time to go it alone and make your own way through life without people holding your hand or holding you back, but this isn't one of them. If you want to get ahead over the next few days, you are going to need friends and allies.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

It's possible that you could fall out with someone over your social or travel plans today, but in the greater scheme of things, it's no big deal, so stay calm and try to work it out with them. And if you can't? Just walk away.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Some people seem to believe they can avoid the consequences of their actions, but you know better, and that means you are more likely to make the correct decision today concerning a partnership issue. Remember: Nobody wins unless everybody wins.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

There are a lot of changes going on in the world, and some of those changes will have a knock-on effect on you personally. What changes today may be worrying to begin with, but it will soon be apparent that it's a huge change for the better.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

It is of even more importance than usual that you stay on the right side of partners and loved ones. Make use of Venus in your opposite sign to soothe their fears. Reassure them that what you do for yourself will be good for them as well.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

The Sun and Jupiter in the most dynamic area of your chart are doing wonders for your confidence, and what you undertake today will come easier to you than you expected. You never know what you are truly capable of until you try!

♉ TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

Take time out of your busy schedule to remind yourself of your ultimate dream — that is, where you want to be a few years from now. Once you have that vision fixed in your mind, your journey through life will be both simpler and more exciting.

♊ GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

Some kind of reward for your previous efforts is heading your way, but don't let the universe's regard for you go to your head. There are still a lot of things you need to do and so many people are relying on you to do them well.

♋ CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

The more other people do things for you today, the more you must do things for them. It's not just about being nice or being kind, it's about setting in motion a sequence of positive events that can change everyone's lives for the better.

BIRTHDAY TUESDAY

Take advantage of Jupiter in your sign to set goals that really challenge you. No matter what you may have accomplished in the past, you can and you will exceed it over the coming 12 months. It's your destiny to leave your mark on the world.

Post Weather Report

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Tuesday	Wednesday
Today: Partly sunny and less humid. High 81 to 87.	**Tomorrow:** A t-storm in spots in the afternoon. High 80 to 86.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 69 to 75.	**Tomorrow night:** Cloudy, a stray t-storm; humid. Low 69 to 75.

Thursday	Friday
A stray t-storm. High 85 to 91.	Showers/ t-storms. High 86 to 92.
Evening Humid. Low 71 to 77.	**Evening** A stray t-storm. Low 72 to 78.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

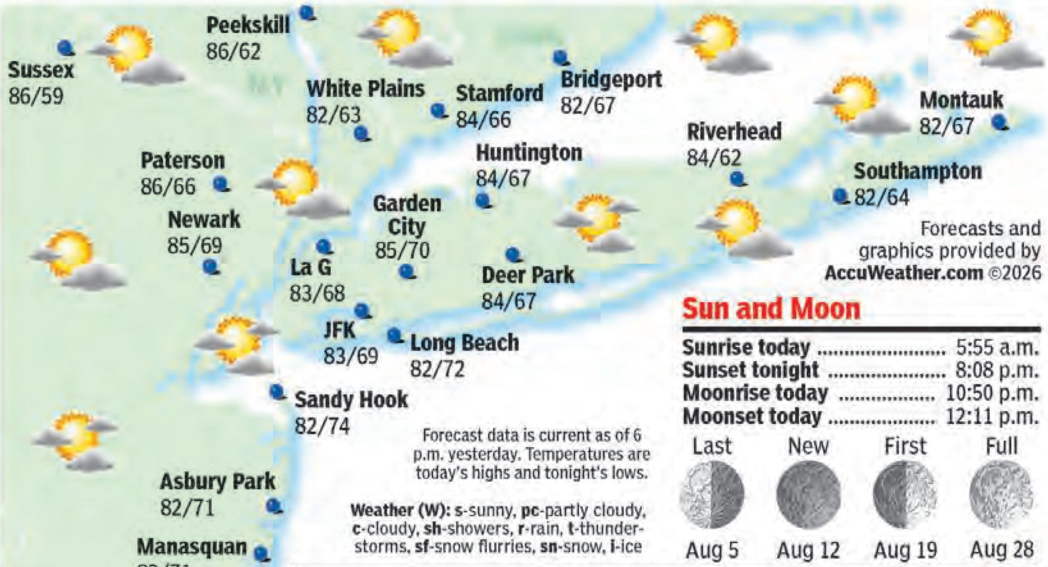
Temperature
High: 80, Low: 73, Mean: 77

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: -1 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 1.93", Month: 2.00",
Year: 24.71", Normal year to date: 28.78"

Cooling Degree days yesterday..............12
Total for the month (normal)...........40 (37)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)...........800 (738)
Last year to date..805
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 75
UV index (for Tue.) .... 9 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 100%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Weeds, Grasses
AQI rating: (for Tue.)...................Moderate


Sussex
86/59
Peekskill
86/62
White Plains
82/63
Stamford
84/66
Bridgeport
82/67
Huntington
84/67
Riverhead
84/62
Montauk
82/67
Southampton
82/64
Paterson
86/66
Newark
85/69
Garden City
85/70
La G
83/68
Deer Park
84/67
JFK
83/69
Long Beach
82/72
Sandy Hook
82/74
Asbury Park
82/71
Manasquan
83/71
Toms River
84/68
Long Beach
81/72
Atlantic City
83/69
Ocean City
81/72

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

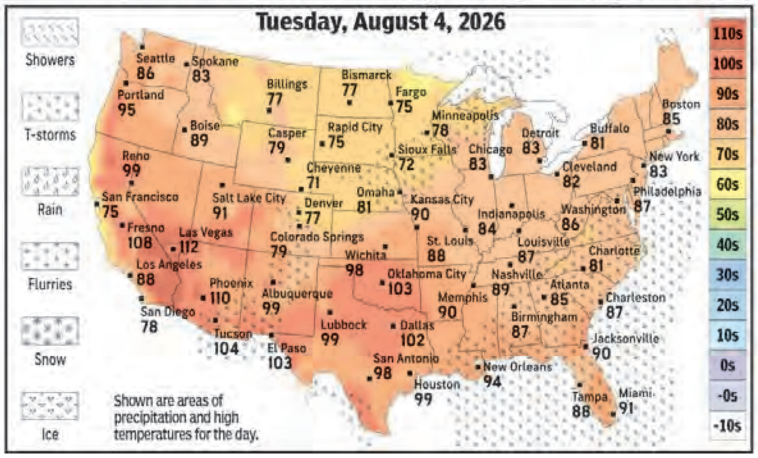
Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:55 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:08 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 10:50 p.m.
Moonset today .... 12:11 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Aug 5	Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 28

Tuesday, August 4, 2026


Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 86
Spokane 83
Portland 95
Billings 77
Bismarck 77
Fargo 75
Boise 89
Casper 79
Rapid City 75
Minneapolis 78
Sioux Falls 72
Reno 99
Cheyenne 71
San Francisco 75
Salt Lake City 91
Denver 77
Omaha 81
Kansas City 90
Chicago 83
Detroit 83
Buffalo 81
Boston 85
New York 83
Cleveland 82
Philadelphia 87
Indianapolis 84
Washington 86
Fresno 108
Las Vegas 112
Colorado Springs 79
Wichita 98
St. Louis 88
Louisville 87
Charlotte 81
Los Angeles 88
Phoenix 110
Albuquerque 99
Oklahoma City 103
Nashville 89
Memphis 90
Atlanta 85
Charleston 87
San Diego 78
Tucson 104
El Paso 103
Lubbock 99
Dallas 102
Birmingham 87
Jacksonville 90
San Antonio 98
Houston 99
New Orleans 94
Tampa 88
Miami 91
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	12:24p	---	12:43a	1:17p
Fire Island	12:04a	12:41p	12:51a	1:31p
Hempstead	3:33a	3:57p	4:24a	4:50p
Huntington	3:43a	4:06p	4:34a	4:58p
Jones Inlet	12:08p	---	12:27a	1:01p
Montauk Point	1:17a	2:01p	2:04a	2:50p
Port Washington	3:30a	3:55p	4:22a	4:48p
Sandy Hook	12:28p	---	12:47a	1:21p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	83/61/s	86/67/pc
Danbury	83/60/pc	84/68/pc
Glens Falls	83/55/s	84/61/c
Gr Barrington	84/58/s	82/64/pc
Kingston	87/60/s	86/70/pc
Liberty	83/60/s	81/64/pc
Monticello	82/58/s	78/64/pc
Newburgh	87/60/pc	83/70/pc
Poughkeepsie	84/60/pc	84/68/pc
Saratoga Springs	85/57/s	84/65/c
Stroudsburg	86/61/pc	82/67/t
Torrington	85/61/pc	84/70/pc
Syracuse	83/60/s	87/69/pc

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	95/78/s	96/79/s
Baghdad	119/93/s	118/91/s
Beijing	93/76/t	96/77/t
Berlin	90/70/sh	89/68/t
Cairo	97/76/pc	98/75/pc
Dublin	75/54/sh	64/50/pc
Geneva	90/65/t	91/64/t
Hong Kong	86/79/r	89/79/r
Jerusalem	89/70/s	89/69/s
Kabul	92/66/pc	91/65/pc
London	85/63/pc	78/55/s
Madrid	93/70/s	96/72/s
Mexico City	79/57/r	78/57/r
Montreal	82/62/s	84/68/c
Moscow	77/60/pc	81/61/pc
Paris	89/67/pc	86/61/s
Rio de Janeiro	79/70/c	83/71/s
Rome	93/72/s	92/71/pc
Sydney	65/45/s	66/45/s
Tokyo	85/74/pc	88/76/c

Save Science

Fauci's power buried it under puerile politics

GLENN HARLAN REYNOLDS

AP Photo/Allison Robbert

Contempt: Fauci refused to answer senators' questions last week.

ONE lesson stands out among the many we must take away from the debacle of COVID-19: No more Faucis.

I don't mean keeping petty, preening public servants out of positions of authority; that's probably asking too much. Anthony Fauci proved himself to be both last week, when he cited the Fifth Amendment 111 times to skirt questions in Congress — yet still managed to convict himself.

His dodging looked bad, and the release of his diary made him look worse: a shallow, vain, dishonest man more concerned with politics and media coverage than with doing his job, which he did poorly. But while I'd be happy to see Fauci in the dock, his reputational downfall can't be the end of the COVID reckoning.

So let me repeat: No more Faucis. By that I mean we should never again allow a single bureaucrat or a small group to exercise the sweeping and largely unchecked institutional power that Fauci wielded for decades.

Fauci served as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases from 1984 until the end of 2022. In this role, he was the senior federal official overseeing the bulk of US government-funded research on infectious diseases, immunology, allergy and related areas. Thirty-eight years is too long for anyone to head a bureaucracy.

And while Fauci didn't control all of America's biomedical research — NIH as a whole, other federal agencies, private foundations and industry fund more — his long tenure at NIAID made him particularly influential. Cumulative funding under his direction ran into the tens of billions of dollars.

After 9/11, NIAID became the lead civilian agency for biodefense research against Category A agents like anthrax and smallpox, vaccines, diagnostics and medical countermeasures. This included expanded work on "dual-use research of concern" — that is, research on pathogens that could be used either to treat illness or to maliciously spread it.

Fauci's continuous four-decade tenure, unprecedented for an NIH institute director, gave him deep institutional knowledge, relationships across government, and high public visibility. After so long in office, he had connections everywhere — and he used them with relish.

People who crossed him were unlikely to get funded; people who pleased him had a much better shot. No wonder he saw himself as the embodiment of science itself.

But science isn't something that people *are*; it's something people *do*. It's a system in which hypotheses are tested, supported or falsified, and developed further. And allowing one person, with all his human biases and weaknesses, to hold so much power over science for so long can only do that system harm.

It's not just Fauci. Look at the field of Alzheimer's research, where for decades the so-called "Amyloid Mafia" — a powerful, self-reinforcing network of scientists, grant reviewers, journal gatekeepers, conference organizers and industry figures — pushed the amyloid cascade hypothesis of the disease.

Key figures like Dennis Selkoe at Harvard and Paul Aisen at the University of Southern California saw to it that their pet theory took precedence over alternative ideas. It was nearly impossible to get grant approval for proposals in the field that didn't include an amyloid angle, and papers pushing alternate hypotheses were frequently rejected. Meanwhile drugs based on the amyloid hypothesis didn't really work — and one of the most important papers promoting the theory turned out, in 2022, to be fraudulent.

According to investigative journalist Charles Piller, who detailed the "fraud, arrogance, and tragedy" last year in his book "Doctored," the incestuous, self-protecting nature of the amyloid clique meant that a decade or more of potential progress was lost. (That's a loss I feel personally: My mother has Alzheimer's and is currently in memory care; my father, too, suffered from it before his death.)

The granddaddy of scientific groupthink is the Soviet school of Lysenkoism, the Marxist-influenced theory of evolution that dominated Russia's agriculture across three decades, with disastrous results. But because Josef Stalin found the concepts espoused by Trofim Lysenko to be congenial, it was deadly dangerous to contradict them.

Science advances by criticism, dialogue and challenges to widely held beliefs — even if those beliefs are held by those in power. Systems in which the powerful can steer money to their friends and away from critics tend to do bad science, or no science at all.

Science is never really "settled," in other words — and the insistence that it can be was one of the most damaging messages of the COVID years.

We need to fix NIAID, NIH and other science agencies to make open communication and diversity of ideas easier, and to make it harder for those at the top to build empires and stifle critics. No more Faucis, ever again.

FAST TAKES

Decency desk: College-Sports Bill's Killer Flaw

The National Collegiate Athletic Association promotes "the Protect College Sports Act" as the answer to its "college football, conference realignment and name-image-and-likeness" problems. But "the NCAA and its lobbyists aren't telling anyone" that the bill "is a Trojan horse for men in women's college sports," thunders Kim Jones at The Wall Street Journal. One provision would stymie federal lawsuits to protect women's sports, "halt efforts to hold the NCAA accountable under Title IX" and undo "state protections for women and girls in school sports." Don't trust the NCAA, which "permits member schools to allow men on women's teams" and "allows men to define themselves as women and use women's locker rooms." America's "female athletes deserve the full protections of Title IX." "Solve football, solve NIL, but don't exempt the NCAA from Title IX and state law."

Conservatives: Ceuta Could Be Our Future

The border rush at Ceuta — "tens of thousands of military-aged men invaded" the Spanish exclave — shows what "the Democratic Socialists of America's mass-amnesty and open-borders policies would look like in practice," warns the Washington Examiner's editorial board. Spain's socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has significantly "implemented" the dream of "mass amnesty and open borders" shared by the Western left on the premise that "we owe migrants the right to come here" because capitalism "supposedly destroyed their countries' economies" — when in fact it was "socialist policies" that "condemned their own people to misery." Socialists now seek to "import that misery" wholesale, which is what happens when "governments transform border enforcement from a sovereign obligation into an exercise in ideological guilt."

From the right: Make Dems Own Their Insanity

Rather than "panic," Republicans in the midterms should adopt a "bold branding campaign, without apology," argues The Washington Times' Robert Knight. Recall the horrors under President Joe Biden, when gas was "$5 a gallon, inflation soared as high as 9%, millions of unvetted illegals poured across the border," and Iran was just weeks from "getting the bomb." "The message: If you vote Democratic at any level, you are summoning back the bad old days," and "you are also enabling Democratic Socialists of America" and their "bizarre, anti-American agenda." GOP ads should "illustrate the stark moral contrast between the parties," from Dem-enabled "billions of dollars in fraud" to lunatic pro-trans propaganda to Kindergartners to Democrats' embrace of antisemitic America-hater Hasan Piker, who claimed America deserved 9/11. "Make the Democrats own it all."

Pollsters: Progressive Lifeline for GOP

Abdul El-Sayed

Rep. Haley Stevens and Abdul El-Sayed's fight for Michigan's Democratic Senate nomination is "the most contentious primary of the 2026 cycle," note Douglas E. Schoen & Carly Cooperman in The Hill, and a Dem win in the fall "is vital to the party's chances to retake" the Senate. Uh-oh: "El-Sayed appears to be gaining considerable momentum in the campaign's final days," but has struggled to gain popularity among "Independents and Black voters, two vital demographics in Michigan." Surveys show him trailing Republican Mike Rogers by 10 points, while "Stevens and Rogers are virtually tied." So the likely progressive primary victory will increase "the odds that progressives will have won the battle only to cost Democrats the war."

Libertarian: Zo's Bogus 'Enemies List' Excuse

Mayor Zohran Mamdani's "packaged publication of surcharge targets" is "potentially dangerous," but his supporters are defending him by saying "tax and property information" is public, fumes Reason's J.D. Tuccille. The raw data is, but this selected list has been compiled into a search-friendly file, which is a whole different thing. And the tax hits condos and coops valued at $1 million; by NYC standards "those owners are not necessarily the richest of the rich at all. But they're prosperous enough to stir the socialist mayor's backers into a frenzy of envy, which is probably the intention." In our "age of weaponized hatreds, just being suspected of success can get you on politicians' enemy lists." *— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board*

NEW YORK POST
America's oldest continuously published daily newspaper

It's Stand-Up Time, Saudis

Saudi Arabia reportedly convinced President Trump to call off the planned massive attack on Iran over the weekend; will the kingdom now live up to the long-term obligations that ask implies?

That is: If Riyadh wants to help shape US policy, it needs to act as a full-fledged US ally, and *deliver* — whether by somehow getting Iran to truly reopen the Strait of Hormuz and denuclearize, or by committing major financial and military resources to a serious military campaign that forces Tehran's hand.

Trump said he paused the strikes last Saturday because the kingdom and other Gulf states asked him to: Per Saudi media, Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman urged the prez to prioritize "dialogue to de-escalate tensions" and "prevent a wider conflict."

Yet Tehran plainly doesn't *want* "to de-escalate tensions" and is certain that threatening "a wider conflict" is how it can win in negotiations what it can't on the battlefield.

If the Saudi ruler wants Washington to stand down anyway, then he needs to put a whole lot more skin in the game.

We get it: The prince fears Iran will retaliate against key Saudi sites if US forces strike power plants or other vital infrastructure in Iran; other Gulf states share similar worries.

But the prolonged holdoff on serious strikes even though the diplomatic dance never goes anywhere only prolongs the misery — for the region *and* the world. MBS surely doesn't want to see Iran get nukes or control the Strait, charging protection money; the only other option is sustained, forceful military and financial pressure.

Riyadh has gotten tougher: Back in May, it denied US forces the use of Saudi airspace and bases to defend ships in the Strait; last week, it reportedly joined in (limited) US strikes. That's the way to go: The Saudis can't keep sheltering under the US security blanket that's protected the kingdom for decades.

The sane Saudi response to Iranian threats isn't appeasement but stronger deterrence, defense — and even *offense*. All the Gulf nations will benefit greatly from a defanged Iran and a fully reopened Strait; it's in their interest to step up and join the US mission.

MBS needs to start talking out of just one side of his mouth, or he's not worth listening to. Lead, follow or get out of the way.

No Conspiracy Theory Too Dumb

Proving again that there's nothing they can't blame on the Jews, lefties are claiming the bum-rush of 50,000 people across the Morocco/Spanish border is an Israeli plot.

Between campaign stops for socialist insurgents, 9/11 enthusiast Hasan Piker told his Twitch audience: "Israel and America got the Moroccan government to send like 40,000 people into Spanish administered territory." How did Israel manage that? "I dunno, man," Hasan . . . explained?

It's not just the puerile podcaster pushing this poppycock: Longtime Human Rights Watch head Kenneth Roth ID'd Israel's motive for supposedly tricking 50,000 Moroccans into invading Ceuta: Spain "controls both sides" of the Strait of Gibraltar and could "potentially block Israeli access to the Atlantic" — Jerusalem wants its nominal ally Morocco in charge of Gibraltar-adjacent Ceuta.

Yet Spain doesn't "control both sides" of that strait; *Britain* owns Gibraltar. And the idea that Madrid would risk the world's wrath by closing an international waterway out of pique over Gaza is laughable.

Other marble-minded antisemites pushing the conspiracy theory include Young Turks host Ana Kasparian and actor Javier Bardem.

Of course, this follows recent claims that the Jewish state was behind everything from Charlie Kirk's assassination to Egypt's loss in the World Cup Round of 16 to the implosion of Graham Platner's candidacy in Maine.

All of it 100% evidence-free — because for these fever-dreamers, the conclusion is all the evidence anyone should need, even (especially?) when obvious facts show it's nonsense.

Blaming the Jews is dim sociopaths' favorite pastime; too bad these maniacs are taking over the Democratic Party.

Mamdani's Lawyers Love Hate

Any association with "the Epstein world" renders you unfit for even an advisory role at Mayor Mamdani's City Hall — but similar ties to terrorists is fine.

City Hall says it rejected the one Jew it had considered for a panel that recommends potential judges on the grounds that John Leventhal had been an appellate lawyer for Ghislaine Maxwell, which to the mayor yields a "loss of faith" in the legal system.

Hmm: The guy Mamdani chose for the job of chief counsel (offering high-level legal and strategic guidance) is Ramzi Kassem, who has defended al Qaeda terrorists.

Is it any wonder many 9/11 families don't want the mayor anywhere near Ground Zero for the 25th anniversary ceremonies?

Kassem waged a tenacious defense of al Qaeda stalwart Ahmed al-Darbi, who bombed a French oil tanker off the coast of Yemen in 2002, and did more legal work on behalf of a dozen other Guantanamo detainees.

Mamdani also had no problem naming a lawyer who specializes in defending cop-killers to the judicial-advisory board: Soffiyah Elijah represented notorious Brinks-robbery murderers Marilyn Buck and Sundiata Acoli in court, and writes passionately in defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Mutulu Shakur and other cop-killers.

The mayor plainly has a litmus test for his legal appointments: No Jewish lawyer welcome, but the door is wide open for advocates for the most violent radicals.

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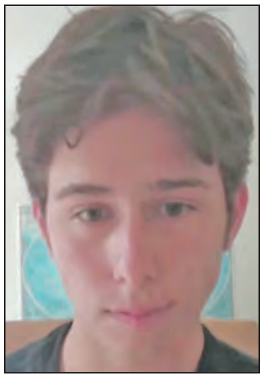
letters@nypost.com

Cornell Should've Booted 'Won't Work for Jews' Kid

THE ISSUE: Cornell University allowing a student who said he's "not interested in working for a Jew" to return.



Austin Franco

•Could you imagine the reaction if Austin Franco had rejected an offer from a predominantly black or Muslim law firm because of its ethnicity? If that student were not removed from Cornell, there would likely be protests ("Hateful "Beg'ot," Aug. 2).

But the reaction to the student's Jewish bigotry has been relative silence. This is one reason that antisemites feel encouraged to hold and promote their beliefs.

Franco need not worry. I am certain he will be offered a position in a prestigious law firm and soon promoted to partner. Then he will be appointed to Mayor Mamdani's judiciary advisory panel.

Chuck Levner
Woodmere

•What a self-absorbed 19-year-old idiot Franco is. Cornell University says he has the right to free speech and is welcoming him back.

In that case, I can't understand why people are fired for saying the N-word. As repugnant as it is, isn't it considered free speech? **Sylvia Kane**
Brooklyn

•Franco will need to stay away from computers with certain processors, instant messaging on his cell phone, certain surgical procedures and so much more, unless he wants to be considered a hypocrite. These were all created by Jewish people.

Don't get attention for being a Jew-hater and then use Jewish products to make your life easier. You have just put yourself under a microscope, and people will be observing you. **Debbie Ginsberg**
West Hempstead

•Cornell University's refusal to expel Franco is a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. His disgusting antisemitic statements mandate dismissal from Cornell.

Cornell's president gets it wrong when he attempts to justify his inaction as defending "free speech." This is hate speech, plain and simple.

Marc Kasowitz
Manhattan

•Franco thinks he has a lot to worry about now that his parents are kicking him out of their home. Just wait until he needs a great Jewish mind to help him with medical or legal help one day. Then he will really be worried.

Marilyn Kirschner
Manhattan

•Franco's parents should bear some of the responsibility for their son's repugnant behavior. Were his parents unaware of the antisemitic path he was pursuing?

Ron Goldman, Brooklyn

•If Franco said he wouldn't work for a black, gay or transgender person, he would have been expelled from Cornell. But, since he won't work for a Jew, there is no problem. And crazies are sending him money for it.

Carol Meltzer
Manhattan

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Mourning Fam's Mam-Snub

THE ISSUE: The family of a Queens sergeant killed in Iran not allowing the mayor to speak at her funeral.

•Miranda Devine is spot on ("Angel all that divisive Zo is not," Aug. 3).

We owe a thank you to Angel Sarah Ampersad's family for refusing to allow the America-hating antisemite to speak at their daughter's funeral. And a salute, too, to the organizers of the petition to shut him out of the 9/11 anniversary observance.

Our clown-communist mayor has staged too many cheap publicity stunts. There's no reason to let him exhibit his smarmy insincerity at occasions of private or public sorrow. His presence would only defile them.

Bill Marsano
Manhattan

•Kudos to the family of the heroic US Army Sgt. Rampersad, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, in not allowing our anti-American, antisemitic mayor the opportunity to blather a eulogy at her funeral.

He couldn't even find the time to call or visit the family, as has been done by previous mayors.

Joseph Valente
Staten Island

E-MAIL: letters@nypost.com or **WRITE** to The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letters will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.

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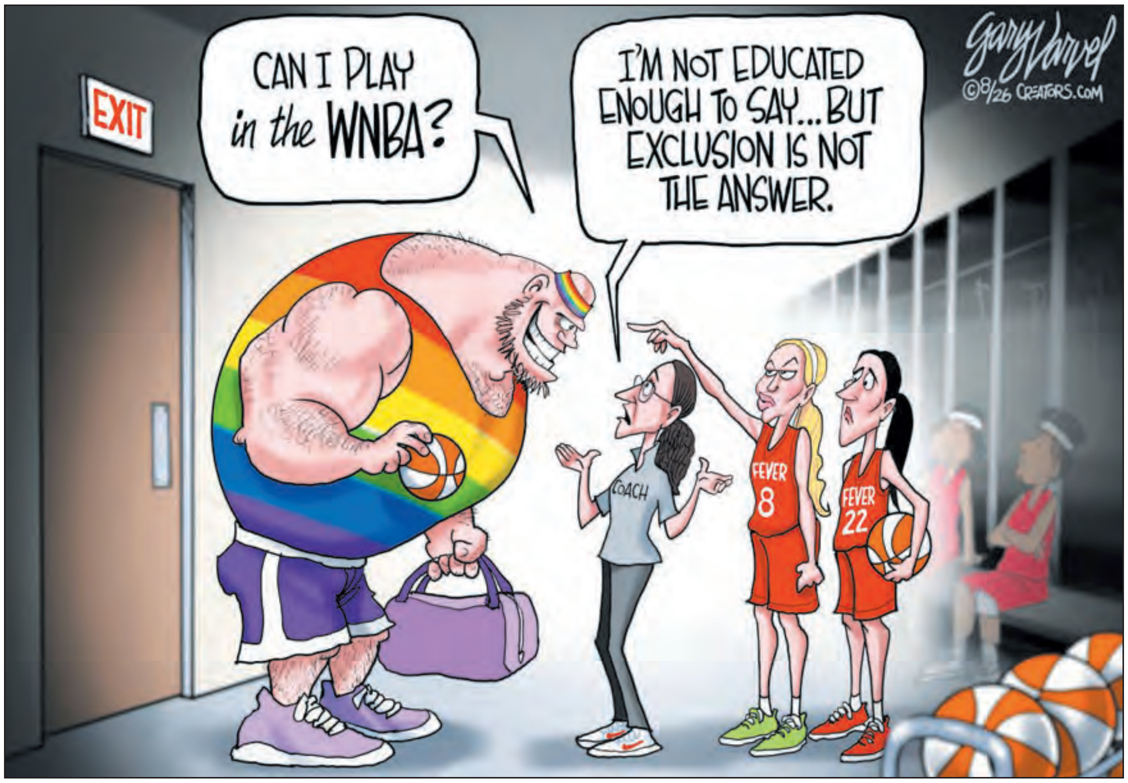
EXIT
CAN I PLAY in the WNBA?
I'M NOT EDUCATED ENOUGH TO SAY... BUT EXCLUSION IS NOT THE ANSWER.
COACH
FEVER 8
FEVER 22
Gary Varvel ©8/26 CREATORS.COM

DSA'S BRAZEN BEGGAR

BETSY McCAUGHEY

NEW Yorkers, hold onto your wallets and brace yourselves for financial chaos. Mayor Mamdani's minions in the Democratic Socialists of America are preparing to radicalize the state Legislature in January, when they take their seats in Albany.

A warning sign of their coming craziness appeared Friday, when Mamdani-endorsed Assembly candidate Brian Romero put up a GoFundMe page with an unusual request. He begged for handouts to cover *his own rent and groceries* for the rest of this year, until he's sworn in to represent East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, Astoria and other parts of Queens.

Romero won the Democratic primary in June — and with no Republican opponent, he's a shoo-in. But he can't start collecting his $142,000 salary and $203 per diem until January, and he says he can't figure out how to support himself in the meantime. Beggar Boy Brian calls this a "challenging time."

"I'm trying to find sort of some gigs, but I don't know how other folks do it," he said. "Other folks," meaning the rest of us who … go out and get a job to pay our bills. He took the page down after The Post started asking questions.

Romero, who earned $106,469 as a legislative staffer before resigning to run for office, says he's run through his savings. Yet he's the guy voters are entrusting with billions of dollars in state spending?

His political platform includes a pie-in-the-sky list of government giveaways — universal child care, free legal services for immigrants and more — all paid for by making the rich "pay their fair share." The DSA's agenda is a freeloader's agenda, and Romero is its living, breathing poster boy.

He's one of the eight New York City DSA members who swept to victory against more moderate Democrats in the party's June primary. The meager 17% voter turnout fueled their "hostile takeover," as Mount Saint Vincent professor JC Polanco told The Post.

DSA victors like Mamdani-endorsed state Senate candidate Aber Kawas, an avowed socialist, promise "transformative change." Believe her — and Gustavo Gordillo, NYC-DSA co-chair, who last week condemned the entire "Democratic Party establishment" for "selling us out to billionaires, landlords and warmongers."

And although the DSA caucus will be few in number— 16 in all, four in the state Senate and 12 in the Assembly — their impact will be huge. History shows they vote as a disciplined bloc, and that they can intimidate incumbent Democrats with the implicit threat of a primary campaign powered by thousands of door-knocking volunteers.

Tax hikes are at the top of their agenda. "We brought the fight to Gov. Hochul to tax the rich last session, when we had only nine socialists in the state Legislature," Gordillo said. "This cycle . . . there's a whole new crew of progressive legislators who are going to demand what New Yorkers want, which is for Hochul to tax the rich."

The DSA agenda — high taxes, ever-expanding giveaways, utopian accounting — would bankrupt New York. Excessive taxes have already helped push the state into economic decline: The formerly great Empire State now ranks dead last among the 50 states in economic outlook, according to the Tax Foundation's Business Climate Index and other measures. And the Citizens' Budget Commission warned in June that the state is already in precarious financial condition due to excessive spending.

But where are Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, the party's so-called leaders? Cowering and speechless.

And where is the Republican Party? Romero's waltzing to Albany without having to face any opponent in November's general election, because the GOP didn't bother to recruit a candidate to compete for the seat.

That's the shameful case in 44 of the 150 Assembly seats being filled this year. How demoralizing for Republican voters in those districts.

Romero's embarrassing personal choice — resorting to panhandling instead of earning a living — is a warning of the threat ahead. Voters who have any option to vote against these DSA radicals must do so.

And because Hochul has shown no backbone to resist Mamdani's radicalism, Republican Bruce Blakeman deserves voters' full support. A vote for Hochul is a vote for the DSA — and for financial ruin.

New York state can't put up a GoFundMe page when the money runs out. The burden will be on you.

From Ludicrous Liar To Cambridge Don

DANIEL McCARTHY

IF The Onion or the Babylon Bee wanted to spoof the absurdity of DEI — the woke ideology of "diversity, equity and inclusion" — they couldn't have invented a character as unbelievable as Jason Arday. But Arday is very real: Born in 1985, in 2023 he became the youngest black man ever to hold a professorship at Cambridge University.

Naturally, he had to overcome great adversity to do so. *Really* great adversity — because Arday, the son of a Ghanaian immigrant to London, isn't just black, he's autistic and was nonverbal until the age of 11, according to the glowing media profiles he's received. And he's epileptic, yet that didn't stop him from "running 30 marathons in just 35 days," as reported in Britain's Independent.

Indeed, he's a sports hero: The University of Bath posted a blog in 2021 presenting Arday's claim that as a child he'd played both soccer and snooker at a professional level. Though last week, the university amended the transcript to say he'd only played soccer "semi professionally" and was "really good" but "not good enough to be professional" at snooker.

Never mind: He has so many other claims to fame that correcting that little misstatement takes very little away. After all, Arday was also a star of the most famous documentary in British history, Michael Apted's "Seven Up" series, which starting in 1964 followed the same subjects from childhood to old age at seven-year intervals.

Starting, that is, 21 years before Arday was born. No, the series didn't add new participants over time — its whole point was to track the very same people who took part in the first installment.

Truly, thanks to DEI anything is possible. Arday now says that when he made the claim in 2022 ("I was part of a program . . . called 'Seven Up' . . . basically when they follow you over the duration of your life") he was talking about a totally different "Seven Up" documentary.

> **He's a poster child for the suspension of disbelief DEI requires of its advocates.**

As with so much else in Arday's almost superhuman biography, evidence for this, other than the professor's say-so, is curiously lacking. And there's much, much more to Arday's story — the brain tumor he overcame while completing his PhD, the 600 miles he ran in six days on a treadmill, the millions of pounds he's raised for charity . . .

A miraculous individual like Arday might never even have been admitted as a student at Cambridge, let alone made "professor of the sociology of education," if not for the spirit of affirmative action. Yet now he's facing accusations of plagiarism because more than 100 passages in his dissertation appear to be lifted from another academic's work.

He insists he's a victim of racism and *insufficient* DEI — as the BBC notes: "Arday did not dispute the allegations of plagiarism, but defended himself by arguing that he had not received adequate supervision during his PhD given his autism and learning disabilities."

Even the left-wing Guardian newspaper found Arday a mite less than truthful, when he claimed a campaign to get him fired from Cambridge included a man threatening him with a knife (the school's video system showed no man and no knife) and a severed pig's head sent anonymously to his parents (London butchers and police had no records to support Arday's claim).

When the paper asked Arday about his tale after trying to fact-check it, he said, "To be honest with you, I thought you'd just believe me." The trouble is, too many in the media and the academy have been believing Arday all along. He's a poster child for the suspension of disbelief DEI requires of its advocates on both sides of the Atlantic.

It's comical when it's just about a professor of the sociology of education, even one at a university as prestigious as Cambridge. But it's no joke when DEI madness spreads from sociology or education departments to every other corner of the academy, including law and medical schools — and from there into the legal system and hospitals.

There's no limit to how far DEI will go if left unchecked: It finds nothing too ridiculous to be laughed out of consideration. If Jason Arday decided to call himself an airline pilot, who's going to keep him out of the cockpit?

Honest and competent minority scholars wind up under suspicion when DEI lowers standards for everyone who fits the right racial profile. Yet by fueling such suspicion, DEI creates a market for itself, as its purveyors claim only affirmative action can overcome the public's doubts.

Arday deserves his fame in one respect, at least: His tall tales reveal the appalling truth about DEI.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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U1 U1 M3 L1 R1 F4 C3 — Double Word Score — RACK 1

E1 E1 I1 O1 T1 V4 M3 — 2nd Letter Triple — RACK 2

A1 I1 O1 L1 T1 B3 B3 — RACK 3

E1 E1 E1 I1 N1 L1 V4 — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 216

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

F4 U1 L1 C3 R1 U1 M3 — RACK 1 = 78
E1 M3 O1 T1 I1 V4 E1 — RACK 2 = 68
B3 O1 B3 T1 A1 I1 L1 — RACK 3 = 61
E1 L1 E1 V4 E1 N1 — RACK 4 = 9
PAR SCORE 150-160 — TOTAL 216

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A J 9 4
♡ 6 2
◇ J 9 5
♣ Q 7 6 3

WEST
♠ K Q 10 8 5 3
♡ 8
◇ K 7 3
♣ J 10 5

EAST
♠ None
♡ 10 7 5 3
◇ Q 10 8 6 2
♣ K 9 8 4

SOUTH
♠ 7 6 2
♡ A K Q J 9 4
◇ A 4
♣ A 2

South	West	North	East
1♡	1♠	1 NT	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♠ K

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"I've heard some mistakes called 'expert errors,'" a club player said to me. "I thought experts didn't make errors; that's why they're experts."

"Everybody makes errors," I said. "An expert will make few technical errors, but anyone can have a blind spot."

Having overcalled in spades, today's West led the king against four hearts. South, reputedly an expert, put up dummy's ace — and East ruffed and led a diamond. South took the ace, drew trumps and led a spade, but West played low. Dummy's nine won, but South wound up losing a spade, a ruff, a diamond and a club.

South lost focus at Trick One; dummy must play a low spade. West next leads a low spade: nine, ruff by East. South can win the diamond return, draw trumps, lead a spade to dummy's jack and take the ace for 10 tricks.

South would have done well to raise North's 1NT to 3NT. South could count eight tricks in his own hand, and surely North would produce one more.

Maybe South was really no expert.

Word Force

ALLIGATOR

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 15** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Yesterday's word:
BUTTERFLY

beryl
bluer
blurt
brute
burly
buyer
flute
lefty
rebut
ruble
truly
tuber
utter

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FROM SOUP TO NUTS ... **Solution: 7 letters**

C	P	M	E	T	S	S	K	A	T	S	A	L	U	T
O	O	L	O	T	E	S	L	S	D	I	N	N	E	R
M	S	M	A	I	A	T	I	M	E	L	I	N	E	E
P	I	R	P	T	D	L	T	E	L	T	G	L	V	S
L	T	E	H	R	O	I	C	A	A	D	N	I	I	S
E	I	S	R	S	E	T	A	L	B	O	I	N	S	E
T	V	G	T	I	I	H	X	M	O	H	H	C	N	D
E	E	G	O	G	T	N	E	O	L	T	T	L	E	E
R	B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	E	Y	U	T	T
S	I	Y	E	S	U	I	E	F	S	M	R	D	N	A
A	T	G	T	L	T	E	D	A	F	I	E	E	I	I
Y	S	E	H	R	O	R	R	N	R	E	V	O	C	L
I	R	I	E	T	A	H	O	C	E	E	E	E	T	S
N	I	T	R	I	P	P	W	P	A	C	K	A	G	E
G	Ⓕ	Ⓤ	Ⓛ	Ⓛ	C	H	E	E	S	E	L	P	P	A

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Acre, Apples, Beginning, Cheese, Complete, Comprehensive, Cover, Dessert, Details, Dinner, Eggs, Ending, Entire, Event, Everything, Exact, Finish, First, Full, Global, Idiom, Include, Intensive, Last, List, Meal, Menu, Method, Package, Party, Phrase, Pies, Positive, Right, Saying, Sports, Start, Stem, Stern, Task, Timeline, Together, Total, Trip, Unit, Whole

Yesterday's Answer: Action

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POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at ***www.SudokuWiki.org***

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 37

© Syndicated Puzzles

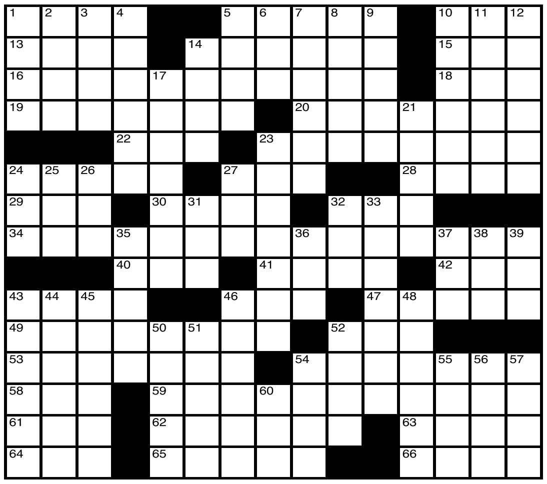
Very Easy #7,360

5				1	3			9
6				5		4		
4		7	2			1		8
	7		1		2		4	6
2	9		7		5		8	
7		8			1	9		4
		4		8				5
3			9	7				2

Difficult #7,150

2		1						
	6		9	3			5	
		3						7
			8		6			
	8	4	3		1	9	7	
			7		5			
9						7		
	4			5	3		9	
						3		1

Quick Crossword



Across
1 Corn cores
5 Pet rehoming org.
10 Sandwich letters
13 Opera solo
14 Replacements for flat tires
15 "__ la la!"
16 *Video game boost that may repair damage
18 __ Lanka
19 "Absolutely out of the question!"
20 Wall surface
22 Quick snooze
23 *Waterproof garment
24 Unleashed
27 Cry for attention?
28 "You're __ human"
29 Charged particle
30 Barely gets (by)
32 Vietnamese soup
34 *Internal setting controlled by thermoregulation
40 Span of epoch proportions?
41 Frozen dessert brand
42 NBC show that inspired "30 Rock," for short
43 Dull pain
46 Superhero franchise initials
47 Steel girder
49 *High-intensity workout program
52 Kissing in the open, for short
53 Beeper on the road
54 Promo in a magazine
58 Sci-fi visitors
59 Go over twice, or what can be found in the answer to each starred clue
61 Alumna bio word
62 Add to a kitty
63 Lo __: noodle dish
64 Take a crack at
65 Cook in a basket
66 Annual May auto race, informally

Down
1 "High Hopes" lyricist Sammy
2 "Milk's Favorite Cookie" brand
3 Skewed view
4 __ solution: contacts wearer's need
5 Cathedral recess
6 Sticky tree juice
7 Purchase in advance
8 String section instruments
9 Lion of Narnia
10 Paul Revere House city
11 Cosmetics giant
12 Two points, in tennis
14 TV soccer analyst Messing
17 Swap with
21 "Amscray!"
23 High regard
24 Bit of baloney
25 Milne youngling
26 Infinity sign's lack
27 Stitched border
31 "Jeopardy!" host Jennings
32 Be nosy
33 Like some Orthodox Jews
35 "For crying out loud!"
36 School URL suffix
37 Draw upon
38 Molecule in some vaccines
39 Shade tree with serrated leaves
43 Regional speech pattern
44 Meteorite's mark
45 Rocking toy, in baby talk
46 Very hard to see
48 Vietnamese sandwich
50 Combo meal drinks
51 Moving line on a weather map
52 Work overseen by a sous-chef
54 Deep purple
55 Adolescent
56 Tart
57 Big Apple fashion letters
60 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"

W	I	K	I	■	P	L	E	D	■	S	L	A	B
I	D	O	S	■	E	I	R	E	■	K	U	R	T
T	E	N	S	■	A	L	I	T	■	I	A	M	S
S	A	G	U	A	R	O	C	A	C	T	U	S	■
■	■	■	E	F	T	■	■	C	U	T	■	■	■
L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	S	H	E	L	V	E	S
O	T	S	■	R	E	A	P	■	D	E	A	L	T
A	S	I	S	■	E	D	I	T	■	S	L	U	R
M	O	D	E	M	■	D	E	A	R	■	E	D	U
S	K	E	L	E	T	A	L	S	Y	S	T	E	M
■	■	■	L	O	O	■	■	T	E	E	■	■	■
■	S	H	O	W	S	O	M	E	S	P	I	N	E
B	E	A	U	■	S	N	O	B	■	T	O	O	L
R	E	N	T	■	E	C	R	U	■	E	W	E	S
O	D	D	S	■	D	E	E	D	■	T	A	L	E

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Dow Jones Indust. Avg. Up 693.38 53,178.41

Business

Nasdaq Comp. Up 540.04 25,913.90

BUSINESS BRIEFS

$125M slap

UBS was fined $125 million for violating the Bank Secrecy Act, the largest civil fine ever against a broker-dealer for violating the anti-money-laundering law. Regulators said UBS failed to conduct appropriate due diligence on customers with ties to Russia and Latin America.

Fed optimism

New York Fed President John Williams said he remained optimistic that inflation pressures are on track to ease gradually, but if they don't the central bank won't hesitate to respond with rate hikes.

Bad reaction

AstraZeneca shares slid 7% on news the company and Bristol Myers Squibb are in early talks to create one of the world's largest drugmakers. Bristol Myers shares were flat.

Nissan shock

Nissan reported its first quarterly profit in two years, as improvements in controlling costs and a weaker yen offset lower sales volumes and higher raw-material prices.

Paper update

Kimberly-Clark, the maker of Huggies and Scott paper towels, said products of the future could be made with fiber from hesperaloe, a plant that grows in arid climates.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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Building something

JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon has long expressed concern over the future of the economy, and now his bank is putting a quarter of a trillion dollars into helping Americans pursue a dream that has increasingly moved out of reach for millions of families.

$750B

'Homeownership has always been at the heart of the American Dream.'
— JPMorgan

Getty Images / Adobe Stock

Helping Chase a 'dream' home

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

JPMorgan Chase says it's investing a whopping $750 billion through 2035 to help millions of Americans buy homes as many report the economic milestone slipping further out of reach.

The nation's largest bank said the financing will build or preserve 1 million affordable housing units and help half a million customers purchase homes as part of its "American Dream Initiative" unveiled earlier this year, which aims to support small businesses and other economic pillars.

"An affordable and resilient housing market is essential to driving economic growth and increasing opportunity," Michelle Herrick, JPMorgan's head of commercial real estate, said in a Monday statement.

The bank said it plans to help those 500,000 customers — including 200,000 first-time homebuyers — purchase houses by ramping up mortgage lending by more than 40% and hiring 850 new Home Lending Advisors.

It has carved out funding specifically for housing projects in the San Francisco area priced within reach of middle-income households, including nearly $200 million in financing for a 342-unit building on the waterfront, the bank said.

CEO Jamie Dimon, who has led the bank for two decades, has long sounded the alarm over the future of the economy — specifically housing affordability issues in cities like New York City and San Francisco.

In June, the median price of existing homes reached a staggering $440,660, while the median age of first-time homebuyers last year jumped to 40 — the highest age on record, according to the National Association of Realtors.

"Homeownership has always been at the heart of the American Dream. Owning a home can transform lives — providing stability, helping families build wealth, and creating a sense of community," Sean Grzebin, CEO of Chase Home Lending, said in a statement.

therzlich@nypost.com

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

Manufacture rise

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

Manufacturing activity in July hit a four-year high, with massive AI infrastructure investment a major driver of growth, even as industry leaders sounded the alarm over price volatility, according to a survey released Monday.

The Institute for Supply Management's July manufacturing gauge jumped to 55.6, expanding at its fastest pace since May 2022 and marking its seventh consecutive month of growth, the survey said. Any reading above 50 in the ISM's monthly survey indicates growth while a measure below 50 signals contraction.

Susan Spence, chair of the ISM Manufacturing Business Survey Committee, said increased certainty around President Trump's tariff policy and hopes for a permanent deal to end the war in Iran helped encourage the boost in manufacturing.

"My gut is, it's not just a one- or two-month trend," Spence told reporters. "Companies are seeing six or more months of these solid demand factors going in the right direction."

The survey's July gauge for production jumped to 58.5, its highest level since the end of 2021; the employment measure hit 52.8, rising for the first time in nearly three years; and new-orders growth, which signals demand, also increased.

Massive business investments in AI infrastructure helped drive the expansion, along with political pressure to ramp up US manufacturing, according to experts.

War worries

Despite the growth in manufacturing, individuals' responses to the survey were overwhelmingly negative, with many industry leaders calling out price shocks from the Iran war and the chances that the Fed could raise interest rates next month to counter inflation fears.

"Pricing volatility was mentioned in 57% of negative comments, the Iran war, 43%, increasing lead times, 22% and tariffs, 18%," Spence said.

Among the survey responses, one metals producer remarked that "it makes me yearn for the coronavirus pandemic chaos, which was more manageable than whatever this is that we are in."

Some transportation equipment manufacturers lamented increased costs and transit time "for rerouted shipments due to conflicts in the Red Sea, Strait of Hormuz and Suez Canal."

Others noted that a spike in demand for certain electronics supplies due to the AI race was "challenging on-time fulfillment for our supply chains."

Univ. route for ‘Minutes’ exiles

Those who can’t do, teach.

Axed “60 Minutes” correspondents Scott Pelley and Sharyn Alfonsi will serve as “journalists in residence” at Columbia University.

The Ivy League school said Monday that the duo — who got the boot from the prestigious show amid a sweeping shake-up under CBS News Editor-in-Chief Bari Weiss — will work with students via lectures, workshops and special events.

They will each contribute a piece to the high-minded Columbia Journalism Review, too.

The move comes just two months after Pelley’s highly publicized firing and after Alfonsi’s contract expired following her own public scrap with Weiss.

“We’re both excited and honored to welcome two journalists of this caliber to our Journalist in Residence Program,” Columbia J-School Dean Jelani Cobb said in a statement.

Pelley was fired for cause from CBS in early June, after he tore into new “60 Minutes” Executive Producer Nick Bilton over his lack of experience during a staff meet-and-greet.

CBS News let Alfonsi’s contract expire in late May. Alfonsi (right) spoke out against Weiss’ last-minute decision to hold one of her pieces on El Salvador’s notorious CECOT prison.

Alexandra Steigrad

FIFA prez: Save me!

Seeks Trump assist to avoid being booted

By JAMES FRANEY

Strategy to keep possession

FIFA President Gianni Infantino (left) tried to arrange talks with Secretary of State Marco Rubio (right) in hopes of getting the Trump administration to help him keep his job.

Getty, Adobe

FIFA President Gianni Infantino wants the Trump administration to help keep him in office and sought private talks with Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday amid growing pressure to resign over his scheme to sell off the World Cup to Josh Kushner’s private equity firm, The Post has learned.

“He wanted to get online with the secretary and talk about how soccer can be a form of soft power for America,” said one insider briefed on the matter. “But we all know that it is about job protection. It is not about anything else at this point.”

A second source said the Swiss-Italian sports suit felt “isolated” by the avalanche of negative media coverage.

“He is looking for allies of note to publicly support him,” this person said.

Two sources familiar with the matter said Infantino hoped to hold a call with America’s top diplomat on Monday morning. The State Department denied the meeting was taking place, and it hadn’t occurred Monday.

“There are no plans for @SecRubio to speak with Infantino and there is no call this morning,” a spokesman wrote on X.

A senior source at the global soccer body insisted the call had been scheduled but was axed after the “unwanted attention” generated by The Post’s exclusive reporting. A department official denied that, as well.

FIFA didn’t respond to a request for comment.

Sources say that Infantino, 56, has repeatedly tried and failed to reach Trump by phone since his plan to sell off the game’s commercial assets to private investors collapsed Friday.

The Post broke the news that Infantino’s attempt to spin off broadcasting, sponsorship, licensing and ticketing rights was dead after near-universal uproar from soccer federations worldwide.

It has also sparked an open revolt against his leadership at the Zurich-based nonprofit, with one FIFA executive telling The Post that officials want to push Infantino out of the top job under a movement that has been nicknamed “Project Kill The Monster.”

Kushner’s Thrive Capital would have taken a 20% stake in the venture for just over $4 billion.

jfraney@nypost.com

Comp for lettuce victims

Victims of the disgustingly diarrhea-inducing cyclospora outbreak can expect to collect tens of thousands of dollars for their pain and suffering in the coming months, experts told The Post on Monday — as the first deaths linked to the outbreak were reported.

Attorneys representing hundreds of people who got sick after eating contaminated lettuce from Taylor Farms that was served at Taco Bell said victims could recoup anywhere from $20,000 to as much as $1 million, depending on the severity of their case. A death could garner a seven-figure settlement, they said.

“These people didn’t ask to miss work and family events or get medical bills,” said food-safety attorney Ryan Osterholm, whose firm OFT Law represents about 400 confirmed victims.

One of his clients, a man in his 70s, is experiencing renal failure and is now on dialysis, according to the legal eagle.

“We are concerned he could die,” Osterholm said.

Two Michiganders who’d been diagnosed with cyclosporiasis and had underlying health conditions have died, the state health department said Monday.

Food-safety attorneys are already in discussions with Taylor Farms’ legal counsel.

Lisa Fickenscher

Bad timing for Ford

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Monday that some older Ford cars and SUVs pose unreasonable safety risks because the timing belt may fail and cause them to lose power or engines to seize.

The auto safety regulator upgraded a defect investigation into about 135,000 Fiesta, Focus and EcoSport vehicles with 1.0L engines from various model years between 2014 and 2021.

Ford, which has discontinued all three models, had no comment.

Reuters

Tyson slices profit hopes

Tyson Foods lowered its profit outlook for the year because of soaring cattle prices, which continue to weigh on the meatpacking company’s bottom line.

A shortage of cattle in the US has been driving up costs for meatpackers like Tyson and JBS for years, leading to steep financial losses. Tyson said its cattle costs climbed by $575 million in its latest quarter compared with a year earlier. Higher livestock costs are raising retail beef prices to record levels, curbing demand as consumers are already stressed.

Tyson — which processes roughly 1 of every 5 pounds of chicken, beef and pork sold in the US — said its quarterly sales were flat from a year earlier at roughly $13.87 billion, below what analysts expected. Profit nearly tripled to $182 million.

Dow Jones

Boeing’s MAX 7 takes off

The Federal Aviation Administration gave long-awaited approval on Monday to Boeing’s 737 MAX 7, a milestone for the planemaker that has waited years to sell the smallest version of its best-selling airplane.

Boeing has faced a more stringent certification process since two fatal MAX 8 crashes in 2018 and 2019, as well as scrutiny of the company’s production and quality systems after a January 2024 mid-air cabin panel blowout on a nearly new Alaska Airlines MAX 9. Boeing’s shares climbed 8%.

The MAX 7 offers 135 to 160 seats and provides about 10% more range potential than other MAX planes.

The FAA, after almost a decade of review, required Boeing to include updates to the flight-control software, flight crew alerting system and a redesigned engine anti-ice system.

Reuters

HAPPY TRADERS
'Peace' boost.

Big day for oil, stocks

The Dow soared to an all-time high and oil prices slid more than 5% Monday after President Trump announced over the weekend new peace talks with Iran and called off "massive" attacks there.

Tech stocks sent the Dow Jones Industrial Average surging 693.38 points, or 1.3%, to 53,178.41. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq jumped 1.5% and 2.1%, respectively.

Tech shares saw big gains the past three trading sessions, with an ETF tied to "Magnificent Seven" stocks like Alphabet, Amazon, Meta and Nvidia rising almost 4%.

Brent crude oil prices dropped 4.7% to $83.77 a barrel while West Texas Intermediate crude fell 5.1% to $80.34 — though national average gasoline prices, which typically lag oil by one to two weeks, remained stubbornly above $4 a gallon.

Traders were hopeful for a permanent peace deal as they sought to stabilize markets after a particularly volatile July. *Taylor Herzlich*

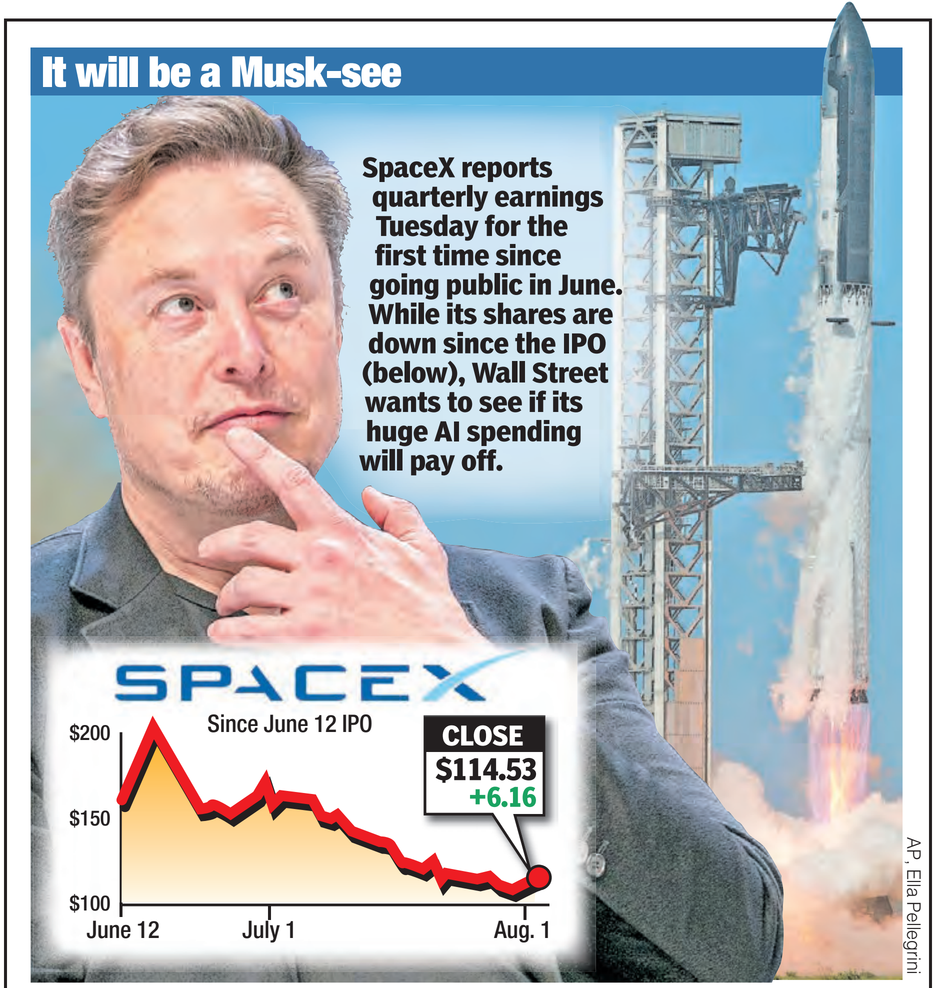
A'zon value at $3T peak

Amazon's market value topped $3 trillion for the first time on Monday, helped by a sharp rally following strong earnings

Shares rose nearly 5% to $284.02. Monday's gain comes on the heels of a 15% jump Friday, when Amazon stock had its best day in years. The stock is up 23% this year.

Amazon is the fifth company ever to reach the $3 trillion milestone. *Wires*

It will be a Musk-see



SpaceX reports quarterly earnings Tuesday for the first time since going public in June. While its shares are down since the IPO (below), Wall Street wants to see if its huge AI spending will pay off.

AP, Ella Pellegrini

Elon undergoing big Space te$t

By THOMAS BARRABI

Elon Musk's SpaceX will report earnings Tuesday for the first time since going public in an early test of whether the firm can overcome Wall Street's fears about its massive spending on AI.

SpaceX, which has lost more than $500 billion in market value since its debut in June, will announce its second-quarter results after the bell alongside chipmaker AMD. Tech stocks have been under pressure as investors fret over whether costly AI investments — such as Musk's plan to build AI data centers in space — will pay off.

"SpaceX is an indirect part of the AI trade as its satellite network, launch infrastructure and future data ambitions require huge computing investment," Mark Vena, CEO and principal analyst at SmartTech Research, told The Post. "But this report will test whether investors are still happy to reward vision before profits."

The Texas-based company closed at $114.53 per share on Monday — far below its $135 IPO price. The forthcoming earnings results are just one concern for the stock, which could see additional volatility when the first "lock-up" period blocking early investors from selling their shares expires Thursday.

Musk's Starlink satellite network accounted for about 60% of SpaceX's overall revenue last year — and Wall Street will be watching closely to see if its profits are trending in the right direction, according to Stephen Callahan, trading behavior specialist at online brokerage Firstrade.

Wall Street is projecting revenue of $3.82 billion and operating profit of $1.42 billion in the second quarter for the Starlink segment.

Analysts expect SpaceX's spending to exceed an eye-watering $14 billion in the second quarter alone.

Some experts are taking a more optimistic view of SpaceX with an eye toward such long-term plans. Analysts at Bernstein have set a price target of $239 for SpaceX's stock ahead of Tuesday's earnings.

"We believe the quarterly results should not matter," the analysts wrote in a note to clients. "What will be important is the level of confidence projected by management regarding the company's growth path."

As for AMD, Wall Street will be watching closely for any signs of a slowdown in AI spending — as well as how the chipmaker is faring in its competition with market leader Nvidia.

GOV'T PLANS FOR AI

Meeting on new regs

By MARC VARTABEDIAN
and THOMAS BARRABI

As AI remains at the center of heated debate in Washington, the White House is hosting reps from Anthropic, Google and OpenAI for a confab on new regulations on Tuesday, sources told The Post.

They'll discuss a forthcoming framework on how AI-makers can voluntarily submit their models to the government before releasing them to the public or business partners, the two sources said Monday of the meeting, which was first reported by The Information.

The meeting — to be hosted by the Office of the National Cyber Director, an agency within the executive branch — comes in the wake of a June executive order that set an Aug. 1 deadline for completion of the framework. The policy has been finalized and the meeting is intended to discuss next steps in the rollout, according to The Information.

The meeting is expected to include staffers for the AI giants instead of their high-profile executives, the outlet reported, adding that it wasn't clear whether the White House will take public feedback before releasing the final policy.

A White House official did not specify to The Information whether the framework is actually in effect already.

Anthropic's development of Mythos — an AI model that the company did not release to the public due to potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities — initially triggered the executive order.

Risk-spotting

The White House sought a voluntary arrangement for AI companies to work with the government to spot risks in their newest models, part of a broader effort to confine federal regulation of the tech to a light touch. The executive order directed several agencies to develop the framework within 60 days, including defining which models would be under its scope.

In the days since the order, the Trump administration has taken a more hands-on approach with the leading AI companies, drawing some criticism from industry executives and policy experts.

That criticism intensified after the White House placed export controls on Fable, the public version of Anthropic's Mythos model, and directed OpenAI to stagger the rollout of its latest model, GPT-5.6.

The framework is intended to create clearer plans for how and to what extent AI companies coordinate with the government before releasing new models.

Dem states sue on tariffs

Twenty-five Democratic-led states sued the Trump administration on Monday, arguing the latest round of tariffs on goods from 60 trading partners, like the president's earlier tariffs, exceeds his legal authority to tax imports.

The White House, which didn't comment, alleged partners weren't doing enough to stop the export of goods produced with forced labor. *Reuters*

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

The bond ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been passed by the Nassau County Legislature on March 25, 2019 and became an ordinance on March 28, 2019 with the approval of the Nassau Deputy County Executive acting for the Nassau County Executive, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such ordinance may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Nassau, New York is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

A complete copy of the bond ordinance summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature for a period of twenty (20) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Michael C. Pulitzer
Clerk of the Legislature

ORDINANCE NO. 15-B-2019

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE TO FINANCE THE CAPITAL PROJECTS IDENTIFIED HEREIN WITHIN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU AND AUTHORIZING $18,602,291 OF BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO FINANCE SAID EXPENDITURE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW OF NEW YORK AND THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY

Project Number	Class of objects or purposes:	Maximum Estimated Cost of Purpose / Maximum Obligations of Purpose:	Period of probable usefulness:
61132	Union Avenue, Westbury – Streetscape and Traffic Improvements	$2,700,000	5
61133	Maple Avenue, Westbury – Streetscape and Traffic Improvements	$3,600,000	5
90611	Various County Court Facilities Renovations	$6,002,291	25
41009	Polaris Field Upgrades	$100,000	15
60045	Park Street Drainage Improvements, Atlantic Beach	$2,000,000	40
61103	Austin Blvd Road Improvements, Island Park	$4,000,000	15
41881	Cantiague Park Miniature Golf Course	$200,000	15

Total Maximum Estimated Costs: $18,602,291
Total amount of obligations to be issued: $18,602,291

NASSAU COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

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Michael C. Pulitzer
Clerk of the Legislature

ORDINANCE NO. 15-A-2019

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE TO FINANCE THE CAPITAL PROJECTS IDENTIFIED HEREIN WITHIN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU AND AUTHORIZING $50,966,750 OF BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO FINANCE SAID EXPENDITURE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW OF NEW YORK AND THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY

Project Number	Class of objects or purposes:	Maximum Estimated Cost of Purpose / Maximum Obligations of Purpose:	Period of probable usefulness:
98343	BOE Voting Machine Upgrade	$3,716,750	10
92036	Disparity Study	$500,000	5
51460	Sheriff's Vehicles	$1,000,000	3
97140	VOIP Phone System Replacement at Nassau County Correctional Facility	$750,000	5
61587	Resurfacing Various County Roads	$45,000,000	15

Total Maximum Estimated Costs: $50,966,750
Total amount of obligations to be issued: $50,966,750

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Thursday: Wednesday 2:30PM
Friday: Thursday 2:30PM
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Sunday: Friday 2:30PM

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NEW YORK STATE 2027 Annual Action Plan

To participate in certain federal community development and housing programs, the State of New York must prepare a 5-year Consolidated Plan and an annual Action Plan and provide opportunities for citizens to participate in its development. As part of this process, the State will conduct public hearings to obtain the views of citizens, public agencies, local governments, and other interested parties on the housing and non-housing community development needs of the State before a draft Annual Action Plan for the year 2027 is prepared.

The Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan focus principally on five federal programs: the New York State Community Development Block Grant Program; the HOME Investment Partnerships Program; the Housing Trust Fund; the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program; and the Emergency Solutions Grants Program.

The Annual Action Plan will describe the State's planned use of federal Fiscal Year 2027 funds to address the needs identified by its five-year Consolidated Plan and further the Consolidated Plan's objectives and will also describe the State's methods for distributing these funds.

The State of New York seeks to obtain the views of citizens and interested parties on the development of the 2027 Action Plan. As part of this process, the State will conduct a series of virtual public hearings on August 18, 2026 at 1:00 pm and August 19, 2026 at 10:00 am to give a brief overview of the program objectives and timeline for Plan development. Interested parties may participate via computer, telephone, or in person. Information on how to participate in the virtual public hearing may be found at https://hcr.ny.gov/pressroom, or by requesting a direct link through HCRConPln@hcr.ny.gov. For any person that wishes to present testimony in person, the following HCR locations will be connected to the virtual hearing via WebEx; 641 Lexington Avenue in New York City; 38-40 State Street in Albany; 620 Erie Boulevard West in Syracuse; and 535 Washington Street in Buffalo.

Reservations are required for individuals wishing to attend hearings in person. Interested individuals must RSVP by calling (518) 486-3452 or sending an e-mail to HCRConPln@hcr.ny.gov no later than 5:00 pm , August 17, 2026. Attendees must present a valid driver's license or other government-issued photo ID upon entry to any of the facilities.

Each site is accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. Every effort will be made to accommodate persons with other special needs. To do so, it will be necessary to receive any requests no later than Friday, August 13, 2026. Individuals seeking additional information regarding the hearings may call (518) 486-3452.

All speakers are urged to provide a written copy of their community needs testimony. Individuals who are unable to attend in real time may view the recorded presentation on our website: https://hcr.ny.gov/pressroom and submit comments to NYS HCR, Attention: Rachel Yerdon, 38-40 State Street, Albany, NY 12207, or e-mail them to HCRConPln@hcr.ny.gov. All comments must be received no later than August 31, 2026.

NASSAU COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

The bond ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been passed by the Nassau County Legislature on September 26, 2016 and became an ordinance on September 28, 2016 with the approval of the Nassau County Executive, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such ordinance may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the County of Nassau, New York is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

A complete copy of the bond ordinance summarized herewith is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature for a period of twenty (20) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Michael C. Pulitzer
Clerk of the Legislature

ORDINANCE NO. 116-2016

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE TO FINANCE THE CAPITAL PROJECTS IDENTIFIED HEREIN WITHIN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU AND AUTHORIZING $1,200,000 OF BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO FINANCE SAID EXPENDITURE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW OF NEW YORK AND THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY

Class of objects or purposes:	acquisition of Fire Comm Computer Aided Dispatch
Maximum Estimated Costs:	$1,200,000
Period of probable usefulness:	Five (5) years
Amount of obligations to be issued:	$1,200,000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

My sister Is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. She is suffering on dialysis, which will eventually end her life; blood type is O+. Average wait time in NY 1s 7 years. If anyone wants to help by being a kidney donor, Please email me at s imoner451@outlook .com. God bless you.

Want it sold?
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NEW YORK POST
Classifieds
Email clloyd@nypost.com

Sawx land O's All-Star Rutschman

Associated Press

The Red Sox acquired All-Star catcher Adley Rutschman from the Orioles on Monday for a package that includes three of their top prospects.

The 28-year-old Rutschman is hitting .251 with eight home runs and 47 RBIs this season. He earned an All-Star nod for the third time but is currently on the injured list with left wrist inflammation. He's also dealt with an ankle injury and a concussion this year.

The deal was announced about an hour before Monday's trade deadline. Baltimore also sent catcher Jake Rogers to the Red Sox. In return, the Orioles received minor league right-handers Anthony Eyanson and Kyson Witherspoon, minor league outfielder Enddy Azocar, catcher Carlos Narváez and a player to be named later.

Eyanson, Witherspoon and Azocar were ranked among Boston's top five prospects by MLB Pipeline, with Eyanson in the top 50 in all of baseball.

In another move involving a former top 5 draft pick, Boston traded shortstop Marcelo Mayer — the fourth overall pick in 2021 — to San Francisco for left-handed reliever Erik Miller. The Red Sox also dealt right-hander Tyler Uberstine to Atlanta for outfielder Eli White.

PADRES: San Diego acquired left-hander **Robbie Ray** from the Giants and right-hander **Casey Mize** from the Tigers, giving up three of its highest-rated prospects in deadline trades for two proven starting pitchers.

San Diego gave up right-hander **Miguel Mendez** and 17-year-old shortstop **Joniel Hernandez** for the 34-year-old Ray, a former Cy Young Award winner who will be an unrestricted free agent this winter.

The Padres also got infielder **Gage Workman** from Detroit while giving up left-handers **Kash Mayfield** and **Jackson Wolf**.

GUARDIANS: Cleveland made three trades to bolster its lineup and, surprisingly, its rotation as it seeks a third consecutive AL Central title.

Cleveland acquired All-Star pitcher **Foster Griffin** from the Nationals for four players, strengthening one of baseball's top rotations. The Guardians also made moves to get outfielder **Jo Adell** from the Angels and first baseman **Nathaniel Lowe** from the Reds.

The Nationals received left-handers **Will Dion** and **Josh Hartle**, outfielder **Nick Mitchell** and right-hander **Kendeglys Virguez** in the deal.

PHILLIES: Philadelphia acquired three-time batting champion **Luis Arraez** from San Francisco.

ASTROS: Houston added veteran outfielder **Daulton Varsho** from Toronto in exchange for right-hander **Spencer Arrighetti**.

DIAMONDBACKS: Arizona got a left-handed bat with the acquisition of **Lars Nootbaar** from St. Louis for prospects.

BLUE JAYS: Toronto bolstered its rotation with an eye on 2027 by acquiring right-hander **José Soriano** from the Angels for three prospects.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	66	46	.589	—	—	7-3	W-1	41-18	25-28
Yankees	63	50	.558	3½	+6	5-5	L-1	26-24	37-26
Boston	60	51	.541	5½	+4	8-2	W-5	25-29	35-22
Baltimore	54	58	.482	12	2½	5-5	L-2	30-29	24-29
Toronto	53	60	.469	13½	4	6-4	W-1	28-31	25-29

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	59	52	.532	—	—	5-5	W-1	34-21	25-31
Cleveland	57	56	.504	3	—	3-7	W-1	28-28	29-28
Minnesota	56	57	.496	4	1	6-4	L-2	30-27	26-30
Detroit	54	58	.482	5½	2½	6-4	W-3	30-27	24-31
Kansas City	46	67	.407	14	11	3-7	L-4	26-27	20-40

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Houston	58	56	.509	—	—	8-2	L-1	29-28	29-28
Seattle	55	58	.487	2½	2	4-6	W-2	32-24	23-34
Texas	55	58	.487	2½	2	3-7	L-6	28-26	27-32
Athletics	45	67	.402	12	11½	2-8	L-5	21-36	24-31
Los Angeles	43	69	.384	14	13½	2-8	W-1	25-33	18-36

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Monday

St. Louis 13, **Yankees** 7

Toronto 3, Houston 1

San Francisco 5, Texas 1

Tampa Bay 13, Colorado 9

Tuesday

Mets at Cleveland, 6:40

St. Louis at **Yankees**, 7:05

L.A. Angels at Baltimore, 6:35

Athletics at Cincinnati, 6:40

White Sox at Boston, 7:10

Minnesota at Kansas City, 7:40

San Francisco at Texas, 8:05

Toronto at Houston, 8:10

Tampa Bay at Colorado, 8:40

Detroit at Seattle, 9:40

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	67	45	.598	—	—	7-3	W-5	36-20	31-25
Philadelphia	60	53	.531	7½	—	4-6	W-3	29-27	31-26
Miami	58	55	.513	9½	2	6-4	W-3	34-23	24-32
Washington	55	59	.482	13	5½	3-7	L-6	23-34	32-25
Mets	47	66	.416	20½	13	4-6	L-3	25-34	22-32

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	69	43	.616	—	—	5-5	L-2	36-21	33-22
Chicago	64	49	.566	5½	+4	6-4	W-1	32-24	32-25
Pittsburgh	57	57	.500	13	3½	4-6	W-1	29-28	28-29
St. Louis	56	57	.496	13½	4	4-6	W-2	28-32	28-25
Cincinnati	53	58	.477	15½	6	6-4	W-1	26-31	27-27

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	69	44	.611	—	—	4-6	L-4	33-23	36-21
Arizona	60	53	.531	9	—	6-4	W-1	32-22	28-31
San Diego	58	55	.513	11	2	8-2	L-1	32-25	26-30
San Francisco	48	65	.425	21	12	5-5	W-1	26-27	22-38
Colorado	45	68	.398	24	15	4-6	L-1	27-30	18-38

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Monday

St. Louis 13, **Yankees** 7

Philadelphia 6, Washington 3

Pittsburgh 4, Milwaukee 3

Cubs 10, L.A. Dodgers 5

San Francisco 5, Texas 1

Tampa Bay 13, Colorado 9

Arizona 5, San Diego 1

Tuesday

Mets at Cleveland, 6:40

St. Louis at **Yankees**, 7:05

Athletics at Cincinnati, 6:40

Washington at Philadelphia, 6:40

Miami at Atlanta, 7:15

Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 7:40

L.A. Dodgers at Cubs, 8:05

San Francisco at Texas, 8:05

Tampa Bay at Colorado, 8:40

San Diego at Arizona, 9:40

POST SU DOKU **Puzzles on Page 32**

5	8	2	4	1	3	6	7	9
6	1	9	8	5	7	4	2	3
4	3	7	2	6	9	1	5	8
8	7	3	1	9	2	5	4	6
1	4	5	6	3	8	2	9	7
2	9	6	7	4	5	3	8	1
7	6	8	5	2	1	9	3	4
9	2	4	3	8	6	7	1	5
3	5	1	9	7	4	8	6	2

Solution to Very Easy #7,360

2	5	1	4	6	7	8	3	9
7	6	8	9	3	2	1	5	4
4	9	3	5	1	8	2	6	7
3	7	9	8	4	6	5	1	2
5	8	4	3	2	1	9	7	6
6	1	2	7	9	5	4	8	3
9	3	6	1	8	4	7	2	5
1	4	7	2	5	3	6	9	8
8	2	5	6	7	9	3	4	1

Solution to Difficult #7,150

Cardinals 13, Yankees 7

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	3	2	1	0	2	0	.249
Walker rf	5	1	2	0	0	2	.285
Burleson 1b	5	3	3	6	0	1	.288
Herrera dh	3	1	0	0	2	0	.240
Torres lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.244
Jordan ph-3b	2	1	1	0	0	0	.244
Winn ss	4	1	0	0	1	3	.239
Church cf	3	2	2	4	2	0	.232
Fermín 3b-lf	5	1	2	1	0	2	.245
Crooks c	4	1	1	2	0	2	.174
Totals	**37**	**13**	**13**	**13**	**7**	**11**	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grisham cf	5	2	2	1	0	1	.214
Rice dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.263
García 1b	4	1	2	2	0	0	.285
Jones lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.228
Domínguez rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.230
Chisholm 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.217
McMahon 3b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.212
Caballero ss	3	1	1	1	1	2	.245
Wells c	4	1	2	2	0	1	.167
Totals	**36**	**7**	**10**	**7**	**1**	**9**	

St. Louis	**211 200 070**	—	**13**	**13**	**0**
Yankees	**000 030 400**	—	**7**	**10**	**0**

LOB: St. Louis 4, New York 3. **2B:** Fermín (10), Grisham (15). **3B:** Jordan (3). **HR:** Burleson (16), off Schlittler; Burleson (17), off Hill; Church (9), off Chivilli; Crooks (4), off Chivilli; Burleson (18), off Chivilli; Wells (8), off McGreevy; Grisham (12), off Bruihl; McMahon (10), off Stanek; Caballero (12), off Stanek; García (24), off Soriano. **RBIs:** Burleson 6 (77), Fermín (24), Church 4 (35), Crooks 2 (11), Wells 2 (16), Grisham (43), McMahon (27), Caballero (41), García 2 (78). **SB:** Herrera (7), Domínguez (7). **CS:** Church (4), Domínguez (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 1 (Burleson); New York 1 (Rice). **RISP:** St. Louis 2 for 8; New York 1 for 4. **GIDP:** Winn, Burleson. **DP:** New York 2 (García, Caballero, Chisholm, García; García, Caballero, García).

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McGreevy	4.1	4	2	2	1	5	91	3.59
Bruihl	1.2	2	1	1	0	0	24	3.64
Stanek, H, 19	0.1	3	3	3	0	1	11	4.74
Soriano, BS, 2-8	0.2	1	1	1	0	1	18	3.62
Graceffo, W, 7-1	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	24	3.04

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Schlittler	3.0	4	4	4	5	6	83	2.26
Hill	1.1	2	2	2	0	1	27	4.50
Castro	1.2	1	0	0	1	2	28	2.08
Yarbrough	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	16	3.68
Chivilli, L, 1-1, BS, 0-1	1.0	5	6	6	1	0	37	3.78
Cruz	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	2.79

T: 3:25. **A:** 38,151 (47,309).

Diamondbacks 5, Padres 1

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.280
Cronenworth 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.210
Machado dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.208
France 1b	3	1	0	0	1	1	.294
Merrill cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.237
Rengifo lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.237
Campusano c	3	0	2	0	0	0	.314
Bogaerts ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.221
Song 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.208
Totals	**32**	**1**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**5**	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Carroll rf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.244
Perdomo ss	3	0	2	0	1	1	.242
Kepler lf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.224
Vargas ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.272
Marte 2b	2	1	0	0	2	0	.249
Arenado 3b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.244
Del Castillo dh	3	1	1	0	0	0	.199
Tawa 1b-lf	4	2	3	3	0	0	.224
McCann c	4	0	2	1	0	1	.319
Waldschmidt cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Barrosa cf	0	0	0	1	0	0	.187
Totals	**30**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**5**	**7**	

San Diego	**000 000 100**	—	**1**	**6**	**1**
Arizona	**000 300 02x**	—	**5**	**9**	**1**

E: King (1), Arenado (5). **LOB:** San Diego 5, Arizona 8. **2B:** Campusano (9), McCann (5). **HR:** Tawa (5), off King. **RBIs:** Tawa 3 (24), McCann (19), Barrosa (11). **SF:** Barrosa. **S:** Del Castillo. **RISP:** San Diego 1 for 3; Arizona 3 for 7. **DP:** San Diego 1 (Cronenworth, Bogaerts, France); Arizona 1 (Marte, Perdomo, Tawa).

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
King, L, 6-8	5.0	5	3	3	4	5	104	3.45
Matsui	1.1	1	0	0	1	2	22	2.30
Estrada	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	7	3.80
Peralta	1.0	3	2	2	0	0	25	3.47

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pfaadt, W, 6-1	6.2	5	1	0	1	3	90	3.66
Morillo, H, 14	1.1	1	0	0	0	2	18	2.54
Garcia	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2.03

T: 2:33. **A:** 22,008 (48,359).

Phillies 6, Nationals 3

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.265
Crews rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.226
Ortiz 1b	3	1	1	1	0	0	.400
Chaparro ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.217
Tena dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.240
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.284
Ruiz c	4	1	2	0	0	1	.265
Lile lf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.248
Nuñez 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.237
Vivas 3b	1	0	0	0	1	0	.240
House ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.230
Young cf	3	0	1	0	1	2	.235
Totals	**32**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**3**	**10**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Schwarber dh	2	0	0	0	2	2	.246
Crawford pr-dh	0	1	0	0	0	0	.261
Harper 1b	4	1	1	2	0	1	.255
Bohm 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.226
De La Cruz rf	1	1	0	0	1	0	.429
Stott 2b	3	1	1	0	1	0	.253
Sosa lf	2	1	1	0	1	1	.211
Marsh lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.279
Hill cf	3	1	1	4	0	0	.242
Stubbs c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.147
Totals	**27**	**6**	**5**	**6**	**5**	**6**	

Washington	**120 000 000**	—	**3**	**6**	**0**
Philadelphia	**000 000 42x**	—	**6**	**5**	**1**

E: Backhus (1). **LOB:** Washington 6, Philadelphia 4. **HR:** Ortiz (1), off Nola; Lile (14), off Nola; Hill (9), off Cosgrove; Harper (24), off Beeter. **RBIs:** Ortiz (1), Lile 2 (56), Hill 4 (21), Harper 2 (68). **SB:** Abrams (20). **Runners left in scoring position:** Washington 5 (Young, Ruiz 2, Chaparro 2); Philadelphia 0. **RISP:** Washington 0 for 6; Philadelphia 1 for 2. **DP:** Washington 2 (Vivas, Nuñez, Ortiz; Abrams, Nuñez, Ortiz); Philadelphia 1 (Stott, Turner, Harper).

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Alvarez	6.1	3	2	2	3	5	81	3.94
Cosgrove, L, 0-1, BS, 1-2	0.2	1	2	2	1	1	14	3.52
Beeter	0.1	1	2	2	1	0	8	4.09
Yean	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.80

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Nola	6.0	6	3	3	2	5	97	5.55
Backhus, W, 2-1	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	20	4.95
Kerkering, H, 12	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	21	3.35
Duran, S, 25-27	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	1.93

T: 2:38. **A:** 41,115 (42,901).

Blue Jays 3, Astros 1

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lukes rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.271
Guerrero 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.261
Okamoto 3b	4	1	2	0	0	1	.231
Springer dh	4	1	1	0	0	2	.239
Kirk c	4	1	1	1	0	1	.237
Sánchez lf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.271
Schneider lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.147
Clement 2b	2	0	0	1	0	0	.288
Giménez ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.230
Straw cf	3	0	2	0	0	0	.223
Totals	**32**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**0**	**7**	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	4	0	1	1	1	1	.320
Alvarez dh	3	0	1	0	2	1	.330
Paredes 3b	4	0	0	0	1	1	.252
Varsho cf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.243
Walker 1b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.237
Altuve 2b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.236
Trammell lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Dezenzo ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.213
Diaz c	4	1	2	0	0	2	.261
C.Smith rf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.216
Totals	**36**	**1**	**10**	**1**	**5**	**10**	

Toronto	**010 200 000**	—	**3**	**7**	**0**
Houston	**000 001 000**	—	**1**	**10**	**1**

E: Trammell (2). **LOB:** Toronto 3, Houston 13. **2B:** Straw (9). **HR:** Kirk (4), off Javier. **RBIs:** Kirk (15), Sánchez (30), Clement (36), Peña (37). **SB:** Straw (7). **SF:** Clement. **Runners left in scoring position:** Toronto 2 (Giménez, Okamoto); Houston 5 (Altuve, Peña, Walker, Paredes 2). **RISP:** Toronto 1 for 8; Houston 1 for 5. Toronto 1 (Giménez, Clement, Guerrero); Houston 1 (Walker, Diaz, Walker).

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bieber, W, 3-2	5.2	9	1	1	2	6	87	5.11
Fisher, H, 10	1.0	1	0	0	2	0	19	4.00
Little, H, 1	1.1	0	0	0	1	4	21	12.00
Rogers, S, 3-6	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	1.62

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Javier, L, 1-2	6.0	7	3	3	0	2	85	6.59
Imai	3.0	0	0	0	0	5	34	5.55

T: 2:28. **A:** 22,789 (41,000).

Pirates 4, Brewers 3

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf	5	0	1	1	0	2	.302
Lowe 2b	5	1	1	0	0	2	.254
Reynolds lf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.270
Valdez rf	1	1	0	0	3	1	.260
Horwitz dh	4	0	1	3	0	2	.276
Gonzales 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.309
Triolo 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.244
Rodríguez 1b	4	1	3	0	0	1	.266
Gonzalez ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Davis c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.173
Totals	**35**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**13**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.269
Chourio lf	3	1	0	0	2	2	.274
Yelich dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Contreras c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.268
Bauers rf	3	2	1	0	1	1	.270
Vaughn 1b	3	0	1	1	1	2	.299
Mitchell cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.262
Hamilton 3b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.238
Pratt ph-ss	2	0	0	0	0	2	.286
Ortiz ss-3b	4	0	3	1	0	0	.241
Totals	**31**	**3**	**6**	**2**	**5**	**12**	

Pittsburgh	**003 100 000**	—	**4**	**8**	**1**
Milwaukee	**000 012 000**	—	**3**	**6**	**1**

E: Valdez (1), Pratt (2). **LOB:** Pittsburgh 8, Milwaukee 8. **2B:** Horwitz (12). **RBIs:** Horwitz 3 (36), Mangum (24), Ortiz (29), Vaughn (29). **SB:** Rodríguez (6). **CS:** Rodríguez (1). **S:** Turang. **RISP:** Pittsburgh 2 for 10; Milwaukee 2 for 6. **DP:** Pittsburgh 1 (Rodríguez).

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Chandler, W, 4-8	5.2	4	3	2	4	5	96	4.49
Soto, H, 8	1.1	1	0	0	1	3	35	3.59
Doval, H, 5	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	4.54
Montgomery, S, 3-5	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	18	3.72

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sproat, L, 3-7	3.0	5	4	4	2	4	64	5.27
Stallings	3.0	2	0	0	1	4	43	0.00
Ashby	2.0	1	0	0	1	3	38	3.73
Patrick	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	3.46

T: 2:40. **A:** 30,684 (41,700).

Cubs 10, Dodgers 5

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	4	1	2	0	0	0	.294
Pages cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.270
Edman 2b	4	1	1	3	0	2	.300
Freeman 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.309
Betts ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.226
Tucker rf	3	1	2	0	1	0	.240
T.Hernández lf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.259
E.Hernández 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.313
Call ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.248
Alfonzo c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.185
Totals	**34**	**5**	**10**	**4**	**1**	**4**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	4	2	1	0	1	1	.282
Suzuki rf	4	2	1	2	1	0	.273
Bregman dh	5	1	1	0	0	3	.246
C.Kelly c	4	1	1	3	1	0	.260
Busch 1b	4	1	2	3	0	1	.243
Hoerner 2b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.256
Ramirez 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.307
Swanson ss	3	1	2	0	1	0	.214
Alcantara lf	1	1	1	2	1	0	.238
Happ ph-lf	1	1	0	0	1	1	.215
Totals	**33**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**7**	**10**	

Los Angeles	**300 101 000**	—	**5**	**10**	**1**
Chicago	**222 013 00x**	—	**10**	**10**	**1**

E: Tucker (3), Crow-Armstrong (5). **LOB:** Los Angeles 3, Chicago 6. **2B:** Bregman (22). **HR:** Edman (3), off Boyd; T.Hernández (11), off Boyd; Suzuki (19), off Wrobleski; Alcantara (1), off Wrobleski; C.Kelly (7), off Wrobleski; Busch (14), off Wrobleski. **RBIs:** Edman 3 (21), T.Hernández (41), Suzuki 2 (63), Alcantara 2 (5), C.Kelly 3 (40), Busch 3 (63). **SB:** Swanson (16). **CS:** Swanson (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 1 (Ohtani); Chicago 4 (Crow-Armstrong, Swanson, Hoerner 2). **RISP:** Los Angeles 2 for 4; Chicago 2 for 6. **GIDP:** T.Hernández. **DP:** Chicago 1 (Ramirez, Hoerner, Busch).

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wrobleski, L, 11-3	4.1	7	7	7	3	4	91	3.31
Henriquez	1.0	1	3	3	3	2	30	3.27
Scott	0.2	1	0	0	1	2	14	2.38
J.Hernández	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	28	7.32

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Boyd, W, 7-1	6.2	9	5	4	1	3	92	3.59
Thornton	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	22	2.86
Woodford	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	14	7.18

T: 2:40. **A:** 39,384 (41,363).

Rays 13, Rockies 9

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	4	0	0	1	0	1	.298
Aranda 1b	5	2	4	2	0	0	.286
Caminero 3b	5	3	2	3	0	0	.283
Mullins cf	4	2	2	1	1	0	.204
Mesa rf	5	0	0	0	0	0	.203
Simpson lf	4	1	2	2	0	1	.298
Palacios 2b	4	2	2	2	1	1	.229
Piper c	4	1	1	0	1	0	.250
Walls ss	5	2	2	2	0	0	.215
Totals	**40**	**13**	**15**	**13**	**3**	**3**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy lf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.289
Karros 3b	4	1	2	2	0	1	.271
Carrigg cf	5	1	2	1	0	2	.308
Goodman c	4	0	0	1	0	3	.256
Moniak dh	4	1	2	2	0	1	.277
Castro 2b	5	0	2	0	0	1	.265
Freeman rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.251
Rumfield ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.296
Johnston 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.283
Tovar ss	4	3	4	1	0	0	.202
Totals	**39**	**9**	**15**	**9**	**0**	**9**	

Tampa Bay	**241 100 212**	—	**13**	**15**	**0**
Colorado	**001 010 214**	—	**9**	**15**	**2**

E: Goodman (10), Tovar (9). **LOB:** Tampa Bay 5, Colorado 7. **2B:** Aranda (19), Mullins (8), Johnston (25), McCarthy (23), Carrigg (11). **3B:** Castro (1), Moniak (4). **HR:** Caminero (31), off Lorenzen; Caminero (32), off Gordon; Palacios (5), off Gordon; Tovar (9), off Seymour; Moniak (18), off Grove. **RBIs:** Caminero 3 (69), Walls 2 (23), Díaz (64), Aranda 2 (67), Simpson 2 (22), Mullins (35), Palacios 2 (32), Tovar (36), Karros 2 (41), McCarthy 2 (64), Moniak 2 (49), Carrigg (28), Goodman (66). **SB:** Mullins (17), Simpson (28). **SF:** Díaz, Simpson, McCarthy, Goodman, Moniak. **RISP:** Tampa Bay 6 for 14; Colorado 4 for 10.**DP:** Colorado 1 (Tovar, Castro, Johnston).

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Seymour, W, 8-3	6.0	7	2	2	0	9	90	4.27
Grove	2.0	4	3	2	0	0	28	3.60
Legumina	0.2	4	4	4	0	0	23	4.47
Kelly	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.12

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lornzn, L, 3-10	3.0	7	7	7	3	0	75	6.94
Gordon	6.0	8	6	4	0	3	58	5.91

T: 2:38. **A:** 19,598 (50,144).

Giants 5, Rangers 1

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Furman dh	4	0	0	0	1	1	.000
Lee rf	4	2	3	3	0	1	.306
Adames ss	4	0	0	0	1	1	.222
Devers 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Susac c	3	1	0	0	1	0	.258
Gilbert cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.239
Basabe 2b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.333
McCray lf	2	1	0	0	2	0	.130
Koss 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.174
Totals	**32**	**5**	**6**	**4**	**5**	**6**	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.253
Langford lf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.268
Seager ss	3	0	1	0	1	1	.190
Nimmo rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.267
Carter cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.204
Burger 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Duran 3b	4	1	4	1	0	0	.274
Wynns c	2	0	1	0	0	0	.101
Osuna ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Díaz c	0	0	0	0	1	0	.246
Lopez 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.277
Cauley ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.213
Totals	**33**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**3**	**10**	

San Francisco	**021 000 011**	—	**5**	**6**	**0**
Texas	**000 000 001**	—	**1**	**7**	**5**

E: Duran (4), Nimmo (4), Wynns 2 (3), Seager (5). **LOB:** San Francisco 7, Texas 8. **2B:** Duran (20). **HR:** Lee (7), off Quantrill; Lee (8), off Gray; Duran (13), off Beck. **RBIs:** Basabe (6), Lee 3 (43), Duran (59). **SB:** Langford (8). **SF:** Basabe, Lee. **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 4 (Gilbert, Adames 2, Furman); Texas 4 (Lopez, Carter, Pederson, Nimmo). **RISP:** San Francisco 1 for 6; Texas 0 for 7. **DP:** San Francisco 1 (Adames, Basabe, Devers).

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Webb, W, 7-7	6.0	5	0	0	1	8	96	3.74
K.Winn, H, 12	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	10	3.03
Hentges, H, 7	1.1	0	0	0	1	1	20	2.52
Beck	0.1	1	1	1	1	0	17	6.92
Sanmartin	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	4	6.75

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Quantrill, L, 4-4	6.0	4	3	1	1	4	87	3.62
Peoples	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	27	2.19
Gray	1.0	1	1	1	1	0	12	3.53
Kingham	1.0	1	1	1	2	1	22	9.00

T: 2:51. **A:** 23,736 (40,000).

NEW YORK POST ACTION

The POST Line

MLB
Tuesday

American League

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
ORIOLES	$113-136	Angels
RED SOX	$102-122	White Sox
Twins	$123-149	ROYALS
ASTROS	$109-131	Blue Jays
MARINERS	$119-143	Tigers

National League

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
PHILLIES	$183-224	Nationals
BRAVES	$113-136	Marlins
BREWERS	$136-164	Pirates
Dodgers	$163-199	CUBS
D'BACKS	$109-131	Padres

Interleague

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
REDS	$118-142	Athletics
GUARDIANS	$114-137	Mets
YANKEES	$141-171	Cardinals
RANGERS	$162-198	Giants
Rays	$113-136	ROCKIES

Home team in CAPS

College Football
Saturday Aug. 29

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
TCU	7 (49)	Unc
USC	38.5 (59.5)	San Jose State
VIRGINIA	5.5 (54.5)	Nc State
NORTH DAKOTA ST.	7.5 (48.5)	Jacksonville St.
E. MICHIGAN	8.5 (53.5)	Sacramento St.
STANFORD	4.5 (50.5)	Hawaii
FLORIDA STATE	30.5 (53.5)	New Mexico State
UNLV	5.5 (59.5)	Memphis

Home team in CAPS

NFL Preseason
Thursday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
+Panthers	1.5 (36.5)	CARDINALS

+ Canton, Oh.

Home team in CAPS

NFL
Wed. Sept. 9

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
SEAHAWKS	3.5 (44.5)	Patriots
	Thur. Sept. 10	
RAMS	3.5 (48.5)	49ers
	Sun. Sept. 13	
Cowboys	2.5 (48.5)	**GIANTS**
TITANS	3 (38.5)	**Jets**
LIONS	7 (48.5)	Saints
JAGUARS	7.5 (40.5)	Browns
Bears	2.5 (46.5)	PANTHERS
Bills	1.5 (44.5)	TEXANS
Ravens	3.5 (48.5)	COLTS
BENGALS	3.5 (51.5)	Buccaneers
STEELERS	3 (41.5)	Falcons
CHARGERS	11.5 (46.5)	Cardinals
EAGLES	4.5 (47.5)	Commanders
RAIDERS	3.5 (40.5)	Dolphins
Packers	1.5 (45.5)	VIKINGS
	Monday	
CHIEFS	3 (42.5)	Broncos

Home Teams In CAPS

WNBA
Tuesday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
VALKYRIES	13.5 (168.5)	Tempo
	Wednesday	
Wings	2.5 (165.5)	MYSTICS

TOP PLAY

Dodgers' prize a K maven

By MALIK SMITH

It's safe to say the Dodgers won the MLB trade deadline.

They caught the biggest fish on the market, adding Tarik Skubal to a team that more resembles an All-Star roster than an average ballclub. With Skubal joining the rotation, the Dodgers now have three of the top 20 pitchers in baseball based on WAR: Yoshinobu Yamamoto (3.1, 13th), Shohei Ohtani (3.0, 17th) and Skubal (2.9, 19th).

Skubal is set to make his highly anticipated franchise debut against the Cubs in Chicago on Tuesday night, and the Dodgers are sizable favorites to win in his first start at -198 on the moneyline.

Skubal has been one of the best strikeout pitchers in baseball this season, but more importantly, he's the best in the game at limiting walks. Skubal is adept at throwing first-pitch strikes. If he gets ahead of the Cubs hitters, he'll force them out of their comfort zone and get them chasing.

FanDuel Sportsbook has Skubal's strikeout prop listed at 7.5 with the juice on the Over. In 16 starts this season, Skubal has thrown at least eight strikeouts eight times.

I'll bet him to go Over 7.5 here and show off his talents in his Dodgers debut.

THE PLAY: Tarik Skubal Over 7.5 strikeouts (-138, FanDuel)

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'26 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Athletics	Ginn (R)	–	8-6	3.46	12-7	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-2	14.2	6.14
Reds	Singer (R)	(6:40pm)	5-10	4.35	8-13	0-1	3.00	1-3	2-1	18.0	2.50
Mets	Manaea (L)	–	2-5	4.42	3-6	0-0	0.00	3-0	0-1	16.2	3.78
Guardians	Cantillo (L)	(6:40pm)	8-6	3.88	15-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	12.2	6.39
Cardinals	Dobbins (R)	–	2-1	3.74	2-2	0-0	0.00	2-0	1-1	16.1	3.86
Yankees	Weathers (L)	(7:10pm)	4-7	3.99	10-11	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	17.1	3.12
Giants	Tidwell (R)	–	0-0	3.00	0-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	*–	–	–
Rangers	Gore (L)	(8:05pm)	6-9	4.77	11-12	1-1	0.75	4-2	1-1	17.2	5.60
Rays	Peralta (R)	–	5-9	4.99	10-12	1-1	1.76	5-3	0-2	13.2	7.24
Rockies	Hughes (R)	(8:40pm)	0-3	3.33	0-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-3	15.1	3.52
Angels	G. Rodriguez (R)		3-3	7.98	3-7	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	13.0	9.00
Orioles	TBD	(6:35pm)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
White Sox	Martin (R)	–	9-5	3.62	13-8	0-1	11.25	1-1	0-1	16.2	4.86
Red Sox	TBD	(7:10pm)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Twins	Ryan (R)	–	6-7	3.52	11-11	0-2	5.62	8-3	0-2	16.0	7.88
Royals	Dobnak (R)	(7:40pm)	1-0	1.04	2-1	1-0	0.00	1-0	1-0	16.1	0.55
Blue Jays	Yesavage (R)	–	5-5	3.73	7-10	0-0	1.59	0-0	1-1	16.2	3.78
Astros	Wesneski (R)	(8:10pm)	1-0	4.76	1-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	14.2	5.52
Tigers	TBD	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mariners	Hancock (R)	(9:40pm)	6-5	3.26	10-10	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-1	12.2	3.55
Nationals	Littell (R)	–	7-8	4.94	7-7	0-1	5.00	1-1	1-1	15.2	5.74
Phillies	Luzardo (L)	(6:40pm)	9-5	3.57	14-8	0-0	1.35	2-4	1-1	18.1	3.93
Marlins	Gusto (R)	–	0-2	5.31	4-4	0-0	0.00	0-2	0-0	11.1	8.10
Braves	Holmes (R)	(7:15pm)	6-4	3.88	14-6	0-0	6.75	1-0	1-0	14.2	5.52
Pirates	Jones (R)	–	2-2	3.81	6-5	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-1	17.0	2.65
Brewers	Henderson (R)	(7:40pm)	5-1	2.66	7-2	0-0	1.80	0-0	2-0	15.2	1.72
Dodgers	Skubal (L)	–	7-5	2.79	9-7	0-0	0.00	1-1	2-0	21.0	1.71
Cubs	Assad (R)	(8:05pm)	6-1	3.75	8-1	0-0	23.14	0-0	0-0	14.0	1.93
Padres	TBD	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0-0	0.0	0.00
D'backs	Rodriguez (L)	(9:40pm)	10-3	2.48	17-5	0-2	8.10	1-2	2-0	16.2	3.78

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started. *No starts in '26.

NBA

Eastern Conf. champions

TEAM	ODDS
Knicks	**+340**
76ers	+400
Celtics	+500
Pistons	+800
Raptors	+900
Cavaliers	10/1
Heat	15/1
Magic	15/1
Pacers	16/1
Hawks	18/1
Hornets	27/1
Wizards	80/1
Bulls	175/1
Bucks	400/1
Nets	**500/1**

Jalen Brunson

Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

Western Conf. champions

TEAM	ODDS
Thunder	+125
Spurs	+155
Nuggets	14/1
Timberwolves	15/1
Rockets	17/1
Lakers	25/1
Warriors	27/1
Trail Blazers	35/1
Suns	65/1
Jazz	65/1
Mavericks	150/1
Clippers	175/1
Pelicans	250/1
Grizzlies	250/1
Kings	500/1

STITCHES

Let's Go Mets and Manaea

"Yo, Stitches, hope all is well, buddy. Here's a solid wager. If Giancarlo Stanton ever makes it back from the IL, I'll bet $$$ he won't make it to the end of the season. Give me 3/1 odds. By the way, I've been hand-picking your MLB plays and currently stand at +21 clementes."

— *Luv ya, Rick Santry, Naples, Fla.*

Rick, I'll take 2/1 that he strikes out four times for every homer he hits. Joe, from Brooklyn: "They should have sent that banana to Savannah for a bag of Chiquitas." And what are the odds of getting two Stanton emails? Tough crowd.

Headline News. "Naked man jumps off the Brooklyn Bridge and lives."

Why is it that I somehow feel responsible for this? He's either a Stitches fan, a Stanton fan or a Mets fan. Which brings us to our Tuesday play. The Mutts are at Cleveland. This bridge jumper wants $50 on Sean Manaea and the Mets.

-$

Unfortunately, Michael King is still a Padre and gave up a towering three-run tater to Tim Tawa as the Snakes slithered to a 5-1 win. Down -733 rolliefingers.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY Aug. 4	WED Aug. 5	THU Aug. 6	FRI Aug. 7	SAT Aug. 8
	St. Louis 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	St. Louis 7:05 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM	NO GAME	Atlanta 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Atlanta 3:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Cleveland 6:40 SNY 880 AM	Cleveland 6:40 SNY 880 AM	Cleveland 1:10 SNY 880 AM	Pittsburgh 6:40 PIX11 880 AM	Pittsburgh 6:40 SNY 880 AM
	NO GAME	Seattle 7:00 Fox 5 USA	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME

Saturday, Aug. 15	Thursday	Friday
Atlanta United 7:30 Apple TV	Santos Laguna 7:30 Apple TV	SD Wave FC 8:00 Prime Video

Today's Sports on the Air

	MLB BASEBALL	
6:40 p.m.	Mets at Guardians	SNY, 880 AM
7:05 p.m.	Cardinals at Yankees	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
8 p.m.	Dodgers at Cubs	TBS
	MEN'S SOCCER	
7:30 p.m.	Leagues Cup: Pachuca at FC Cincinnati	FS1
10 p.m.	Leagues Cup: Real Salt Lake at Tigres UANL	FS1
	TENNIS	
11 a.m.	ATP/WTA Canada: Early Rounds	Tennis
	LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES	
10 a.m.	Snohomish, Wash. vs. Helotes, Texas, Elimination Game	ESPN2
1 p.m.	Tom's River, NJ vs. Bristol, Conn., Elimination Game	ESPN2
4 p.m.	Live Oak, Calif. vs. Sango, Japan, Elimination Game	ESPN2
7 p.m.	Repentigny, Canada vs. Bologna, Italy Elimination Game	ESPN2

SPORTS SHORTS

NHL: Islanders go for Gold in front office

The Islanders added to their front office while also completing their AHL overhaul, hiring **Evan Gold** as an assistant general manager and the general manager of their affiliate in Hamilton, the team announced.

Gold will replace **Chris Lamoriello** — son of former Islanders executive **Lou** — as GM of AHL Hamilton, though Lamoriello will remain as one of **Mathieu Darche**'s assistant GMs. — *Andrew Crane*

MLS: LAFC co-owner to become commissioner

Larry Berg, co-owner of Los Angeles FC, will be the next commissioner, the league announced. At the start of the new year, Berg will take over for **Don Garber**, who has served as the league's commissioner since 1999.

The 60-year-old Berg, who will divest his ownership interest in LAFC, will be officially introduced Tuesday at MLS headquarters in New York.

● The league is investigating "reported antisemitic and discriminatory language" from fans directed at New England Revolution striker **Dor Turgeman**, of Israel, during their game at CF Montréal, the league said.

ETC.: NYRA, Churchill Downs link up for series

Churchill Downs Incorporated and the New York Racing Association announced a six-race championship series over a span of five months that includes the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes and a $5 million prize pool, set to begin next year.

● In Chicago, **Kelsey Plum** scored 20 points in her Phoenix debut to help the Mercury beat the Sky 106-101.

● Notre Dame and Southern California announced they have agreed to renew their rivalry with a four-game home-and-home series beginning in 2030.

● UFC flyweight **Allan Nascimento**, 34, died of an apparent heart attack, the promotion said, two months after his last bout.

ODDS & ENDS

NCAA FOOTBALL
College Football Playoff national champion

TEAM	ODDS
Ohio State	+550
Notre Dame	+650
Oregon	+700
Texas	+800
Georgia	+800
Indiana	10/1
Miami (Fla.)	11/1
Texas Tech	20/1
Ole Miss	22/1
Oklahoma	22/1
Alabama	22/1
LSU	25/1
Texas A&M	25/1
USC	35/1
Michigan	40/1
Tennessee	45/1
Florida	60/1
Washington	80/1
Auburn	100/1
Missouri	100/1
BYU	100/1
South Carolina	100/1
Penn State	100/1
Louisville	125/1
SMU	125/1
Iowa	150/1
Clemson	175/1
Utah	200/1
Vanderbilt	300/1
Houston	300/1
Pittsburgh	300/1
TCU	300/1
Kentucky	350/1
Kansas State	400/1
Virginia	500/1
Georgia Tech	500/1
Virginia Tech	500/1
Oklahoma State	500/1
Arizona	500/1
Mississippi State	600/1
Kansas	750/1
Wisconsin	750/1
Florida State	750/1
Baylor	750/1
NC State	750/1
Illinois	750/1
Arizona State	750/1
Nebraska	750/1
West Virginia	1000/1
Minnesota	1000/1
Rutgers	1250/1
Old Dominion	1250/1
Iowa State	1250/1
Charlotte	1250/1
Northern Illinois	1250/1
Miami Ohio	1250/1
New Mexico State	1250/1
Northwestern	1250/1
Troy	1250/1
Ohio	1250/1
Tulsa	1250/1

BET SMART

He may be a pain, but back Lane

Imagn Images

JUST WIN, BABY: LSU head coach Lane Kiffin won't win many popularity contests after ruthlessly leaving Ole Miss in the thick of the 2025-26 College Football Playoff run, but his Tigers are a juicy pick to win it all at 25/1 odds thanks to their transfer class.

By MICHAEL CALABRESE

To state the obvious: College football is not a popularity contest. Reviled coaches have reached the mountain top of the sport, scandal and bad press be damned.

That brings us to the most hated man in college football — or at least in the state of Mississippi. There's burning bridges, and then there's what Lane Kiffin did just did to Ole Miss. Becoming the first coach to abandon a team during a College Football Playoff run, Kiffin napalmed his relationships at the school, proving both heartless and ruthless in equal proportions.

The maelstrom that followed Kiffin from Oxford to Baton Rouge has made it difficult for oddsmakers and pundits to agree upon LSU's ceiling. No team has a wider gap from best odds to worst in the national championship futures market (15/1 to 25/1).

An analyst might call that kind of disparity "noise." I call it an opportunity.

Recommendation: LSU to win the national championship (25/1, FanDuel)

The Portal King landed the top transfer class by a country mile. As reported by Brett Ciancia, LSU reeled in 29 percent more blue-chip recruits than the second-best class this cycle. And this historic class starts with the three most important positions in the sport: quarterback, offensive tackle and edge rusher. They secured the top recruit at all three spots.

Sam Leavitt considered offers from Kentucky, Miami (Fla.) and Tennessee before signing with the Tigers. When healthy, Leavitt is a perfect fit for Kiffin and Charlie Weis Jr.'s offensive system. Assuming he returns from Lisfranc surgery at 100 percent, Leavitt has the athleticism to create off-script and the experience as a high-end starter to consistently make the right choices while operating within an RPO-heavy scheme. At Arizona State, he led the Sun Devils to the CFP, leaning on Cam Skattebo and Jordan Tyson along the way. This season, he has the top running back in the class of 2025 (Harlem Barry) to defer to in the read game and an embarrassment of riches in the pass catching department. Kiffin nabbed complementary pieces in the portal like the shifty All-Big 12 Jayce Brown and the big-bodied Jackson Harris from Hawaii, just to name a few. And the biggest mismatch in the entire SEC, 6-foot-7 tight end Trey'Dez Green, is in line for a massive target upgrade over last season's modest total.

Blocking for Leavitt will be preseason All-SEC left tackle Jordan Seaton, Maryland import Aliou Bah (24 starts, no sacks allowed) at right guard, and a two-deep littered with talent and previous starting experience. All the pieces are in place for this offense to hit the ground running.

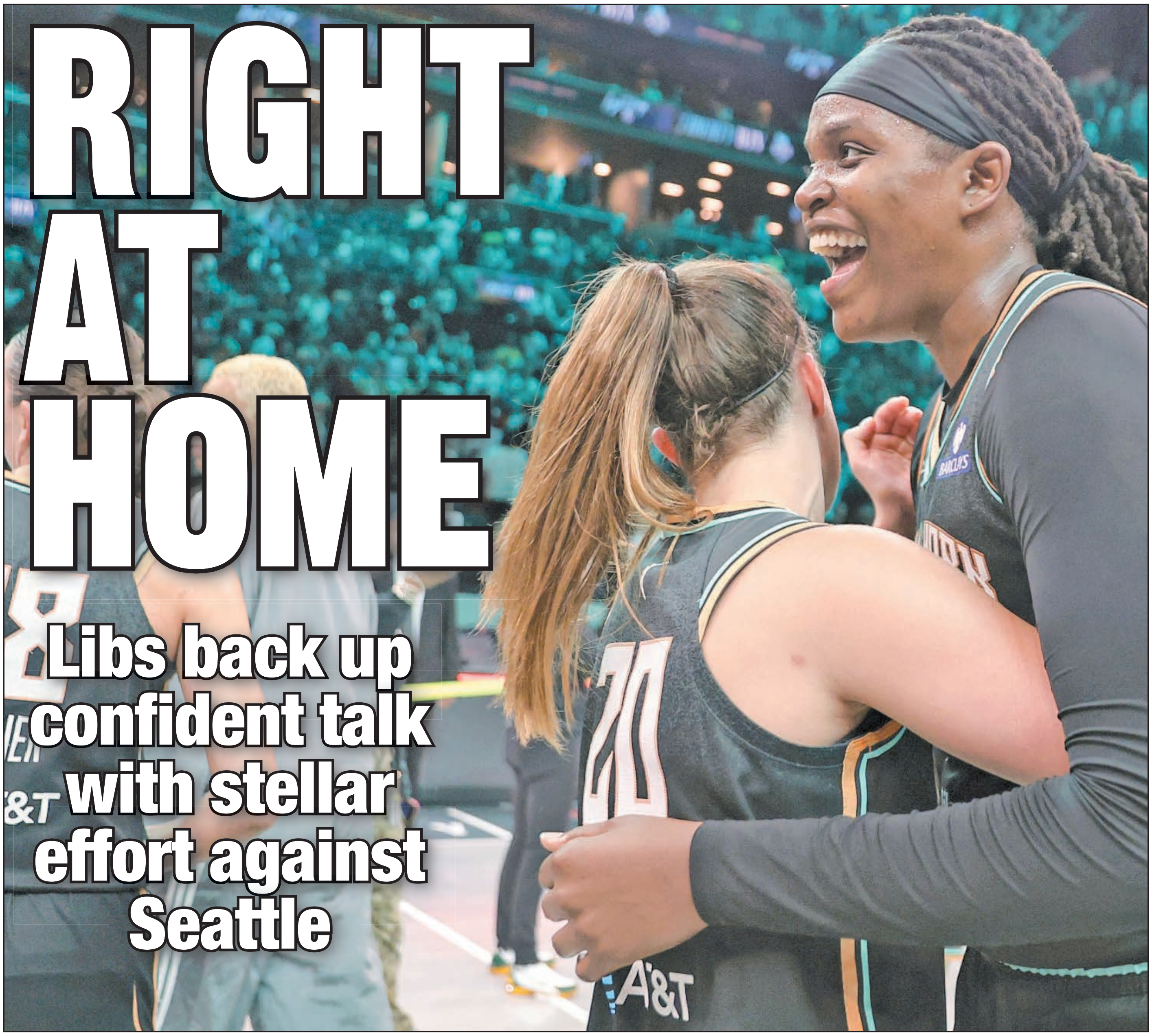
Defensively, there are game breakers at all three levels and an elite playcaller pulling the strings. Kiffin's offseason recruiting coups extended to his coaching staff and none was more important than the retention of Blake Baker. He'll have Princewill Umanmielen wreaking havoc on the edge, Whit Weeks and Davhon Keys cleaning things up at linebacker, and DJ Pickett and PJ Woodland ready to take on the DBU mantle this fall. Just like the offense, the defense's talent is undeniable. From a personnel perspective, there are no appreciable weaknesses in this unit, but they will need to improve in the red zone (92nd in TD percentage) and HAVOC (72nd).

According to ESPN's strength of schedule metric, LSU is staring down the barrel of a gun, with the 11th-most difficult slate awaiting the Tigers. But the good news is that their slate breaks up neatly into three stanzas. They host Clemson in the opener, before back-to-back showdowns with Ole Miss and Texas A&M in late September. Then they'll likely be favored by double digits in three straight games. November brings three straight against Alabama, Texas and Tennessee. But even with five to six ranked opponents on the docket, LSU is projected to be favored in 11 games.

This price is too good to pass up for a team that will be granted not one but two mulligans. At 10-2, with a powerful Kiffin offense clicking in December, 25/1 to win it all will feel like an early Christmas present in your stocking.

RIGHT AT HOME

Libs back up confident talk with stellar effort against Seattle



COOKING ON HOME COURT: Jonquel Jones (right) hugs Sabrina Ionescu after the Liberty defeated the Storm on Monday. It was their first home game in almost two weeks and they didn't trail during the game for the first time since May 29. Heather Khalifa

By HOWIE KUSSOY

LIBERTY	**95**
STORM	**83**

Summary Page 41

Across three underwhelming and inconsistent months of play, the Liberty have provided countless reasons to be skeptical of their postseason chances. In the aftermath of a quiet trade deadline, general manager Jonathan Kolb's reluctance to improve a win-now roster could be considered indefensible.

But the 2024 WNBA champions— and preseason title favorites — believe they have everything they need.

The Liberty's three superstars (Breanna Stewart, Sabrina Ionescu, Jonquel Jones) set the tone in their first home game in nearly two weeks, scoring the team's first 26 points. The bench offered much-needed support, swinging momentum with a late 15-0 run. And the Liberty left Barclays Center on Monday night with a 95-83 win over the Storm to claim their first double-digit win since July 3.

After winning their previous four games by a total of eight points, the Liberty (18-13) didn't trail in a game for the first time since May 29, allowing their fewest points since June 28.

"I'm not too privy on all of the trade situations, but obviously we know we have enough here," Stewart said before the win. "It's one of those things where it's like, 'All right, this is it. Now let's move forward. There's nothing else. Let's keep going.'

"This is it. This is our group."

Stewart led the team with 24 points, eight rebounds, six assists and two blocks. Ionescu had 18 points (7-for-10 shooting), Jones added 20 points and seven rebounds and the bench combined for 21 points.

The Liberty (18-13) host the Storm (6-26) again Wednesday, having won five of six games since suffering through a season-worst 2-8 stretch.

"It felt great to be up the whole game," Jones said. "It felt great to pull away. We haven't had that. It's been a tough season. Yes, we have grown a lot from those close games, but it's nice to have a game like this every so often."

A little more than a month removed from an 11-point loss in Seattle (sans Stewart), the Liberty didn't take the league's worst team lightly, opening a 17-point lead in the first quarter.

"We want to come out punching," Stewart said. "We want to hit first and really be aggressive when we have the opportunity."

But Seattle stormed back, getting 25 points from rookie Flau'jae Johnson and 20 points off 15 Liberty turnovers. Late in the third quarter, the Liberty saw another double-digit lead trimmed to one possession before four reserves joined Stewart to seize control and hold the Storm scoreless for more than four minutes.

Han Xu had six points and a season-high seven rebounds, Marine Fauthoux had a season-high five assists, Marine Johannes hit two 3-pointers and Rebekah Gardner had six points and three rebounds.

"During those timeouts in the third, it was like, 'Stop playing around. There's another level we can get to,'" Stewart said. "That was the bench for the most part. They gave us that spark and really got the crowd behind us."

The crowd sounded convinced — they have everything they need.

"If we want to get to where we want to get to, it's gonna take everybody," head coach Chris DeMarco said. "We love the players in our building and we have full confidence that we're gonna be playing our best basketball when it matters most."

Veteran still stuck on Liberty bench

By HOWIE KUSSOY

The trade deadline has passed. Betnijah Laney-Hamilton remains in Brooklyn.

But the emotional toll of living with so much uncertainty has left a mark on the Liberty's second-longest-tenured player (since 2021).

"It's just a lot," Laney-Hamilton told The Post before Monday's win against the Storm. "I don't have enough time to go through it right now, but definitely a lot of ups and downs."

Another night on the bench didn't improve the outlook of the despondent-sounding veteran.

Laney-Hamilton — a former All-Star and starter on the 2024 title team, who missed all of last season with a knee injury — remains firmly on the outside of first-year coach Chris DeMarco's rotation, having now gone seven straight (healthy) games without seeing action. The 32-year-old, who hasn't played since being ejected for throwing a shoe in the July 12 loss in Toronto, said she remains unsure of her role going forward.

In recent weeks, DeMarco said he still had confidence in Laney-Hamilton, noting that she would get more opportunities to see the floor. But Monday, the coach sounded far less likely to give her an extended look anytime soon.

"It's gonna be game to game," DeMarco said. "We're gonna look at everything."

Laney-Hamilton, who signed a one-year, $400,000 contract in April, began the season in a starting role, but entered Monday having appeared in just 17 of the team's 30 games. She received her first DNP-CD on June 21, then another in the Commissioner's Cup championship win over the Aces.

Laney-Hamilton has played her fewest minutes (16.8) in eight years — two years after averaging more than 30 minutes per game for a title team. Her post-injury play hasn't strengthened her case to be given more. The veteran is averaging 4.7 points, 1.9 rebounds and 1.5 assists this season, while shooting 36.2 percent from the field (24.3 percent on 3-pointers).

But she may still have a role to play.

"She's a great player and she's had a really successful career in the WNBA," Breanna Stewart said. "Knowing what she can give us on and off the court at all times is really important and special. Even just the way she's communicating at halftime and giving players options or ideas is really important. For me, that's advice that I want to hear."

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YONKERS RACEWAY ENTRIES FOR TUESDAY

FIRST: 1 Mile $18,000 FM20000CLM; PACE

1	Sweet Sandy	(JStratton)	6-3-3	8-1
2	SpDancinwithstarz	(BHollnd)	6-4-1	6-1
3	Disaronno Hill	(JBartlett)	1-4-2	7-5
4	Princess Arona	(JMarohn)	1-3-4	5-1
5	Vel Im All Fire	(MKakaley)	1-4-1	3-1
6	Duck Into The Nite	(DDube)	8-5-4	20-1
7	Iris Seelster	(ASiegelman)	4-6-5	20-1
8	Americanbeachdrem	(CKelly)	3-4-6	20-1

SECOND: 1 Mile $18,000 FM20000CLM; PACE

1	Ideal Skies	(BHolland)	4-2-3	9-2
2	Yuengling	(CKelly)	2-1-2	7-2
3	Evelyna Itis	(PLachance)	3-1-6	6-1
4	Racey Rach N	(JStratton)	2-3-2	5-2
5	Who's Perfect	(MKakaley)	3-3-8	10-1
6	Kellina Diamond	(JBartlett)	9-1-4	8-1
7	Th Rizzo	(JMarohn)	1-5-1	6-1

THIRD: 1 Mile $21,000 CHGNW2PM; PACE

1	Callmebigpapi	(JStratton)	2-3-8	9-2
2	American Road Trip	(CKelly)	3-4-5	10-1
3	Sweet Joel	(MKakaley)	2-5-2	5-1
4	Flying Major Art N	(TButer)	3-3-7	6-1
5	Yankee Brew	(JMarohn)	2-3-1	8-1
6	Ballroom Affair	(BHolland)	2-2-1	3-1
7	The Rascal N	(JBartlett)	1-2-8	5-2

FOURTH: 1 Mile $43,000 3-6 YO OPN; PACE

1	Sugar Man	(JStratton)	1-1-4	4-1
2	SouthwindCelsis	(ASegelmn)	3-1-2	12-1
3	Mac's Delight	(JBartlett)	1-1-1	2-1
4	Howlenthehills	(MKakaley)	3-2-5	3-1
5	Evileye Fleegle	(TButer)	4-1-1	8-1
6	Best Chip	(BHolland)	3-1-1	7-2

FIFTH: 1 Mile $21,000 CHGNW2PM; PACE

1	Killer Bee Deo	(TButer)	4-5-3	7-5
2	Hurrikane Lillouie	(DDube)	5-6-8	8-1
3	Captain Amore N	(BHolland)	8-6-5	6-1
4	Enrique Hanover	(CKelly)	5-6-4	4-1
5	Twin B Cabo	(JStratton)	8-5-7	20-1
6	Enter Sandman	(PLachance)	7-1-4	3-1
7	Ozzies Crazy Train	(JMarohn)	6-4-4	15-1

SIXTH: 1 Mile $23,000 HGW2BN4PM; PACE

1	Ragnar LothbrokN	(JStratton)	2-2-2	7-2
2	Twin B Fresh Bet	(CKelly)	4-2-X	6-1
3	Alabama Lucky	(BHolland)	6-5-3	12-1
4	Moonshiner N	(JBartlett)	1-1-1	6-5
5	Nova Blu	(MKakaley)	1-2-10	20-1
6	Rocknacious	(JMarohn)	2-6-4	5-1
7	George's Wish	(TButer)	3-3-1	8-1
8	Sweet Parlay	(TMerton)	3-4-7	20-1

SEVENTH: 1 Mile $24,000 FM50000CLM; PACE

1	Maddie's Delite	(BHolland)	2-1-6	2-1
2	Mc Angel	(JStratton)	1-5-1	7-2
3	Avf Claire	(JBartlett)	6-3-5	3-1
4	Maybemabel	(CKelly)	1-1-1	3-1
5	Survivin Fire	(JMarohn)	3-2-2	12-1
6	Win With Lynnly	(MKakaley)	5-1-8	20-1
7	Over Ice	(TButer)	3-2-4	20-1

EIGHTH: 1 Mile $23,000 NW15000L5; PACE

1	Hammering Hank	(BHolland)	7-1-7	7-2
2	ImtheblackflashN	(MKakley)	2-6-2	3-1
3	Lyons Franky J	(JBartlett)	5-2-2	5-2
4	Invisible N	(CKelly)	5-4-2	8-1
5	Bondi Shake N	(ASiegelman)	6-2-3	20-1
6	Wish You Well	(JMarohn)	6-2-6	9-2
7	Mac's Marvel	(PLachance)	1-5-3	15-1
8	Blank Stare	(JStratton)	1-2-3	20-1

NINTH: 1 Mile $28,000 NW20000L5; PACE

1	Bourbon County	(JBartlett)	6-1-4	7-5
2	Star Casino N	(CKelly)	5-3-6	10-1
3	WattsupSunshineA	(MKkley)	3-7-5	12-1
4	Keayang Taco A	(JStratton)	5-5-7	4-1
5	Royal Desire	(PLachance)	5-4-1	12-1
6	Resilient N	(BHolland)	4-2-4	8-1
7	Railroad Station	(TButer)	1-1-9	3-1

Soccer

Scottish Premiership
Celtic 1, Dundee 0
Women's Africa Cup of Nations
Algeria 2, Kenya 0
Senegal 0, Morocco 0
English Carabao Cup
Crawley Town 2, York City 0
ASEAN Championship
Cambodia 3, Timor-Leste 0
Vietnam 3, Indonesia 0

PGA Tour Schedule

July 23-26 — 3M Open (Jackson Koivun)
July 30-Aug. 2 — Rocket Classic (Michael Thorbjornsen)
Aug. 6-9 — Wyndham Championship, Greensboro, N.C.
Aug. 13-16 — FedEx St. Jude Championship, Memphis, Tenn.
Aug. 20-23 — BMW Championship, Saint Louis, Mo.

Yonkers Results

FIRST-1-mile pace; 40000clm; purse $22,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 6:52 TIME-27.4; 57.1; 1:25.0; 1:53.1

1	Ameritric (J Bartlett)	4.18	2.30	2.10
3	Simply Fast (C Kelly)		2.28	2.10
4	Shipmaster (M Kakaley)			3.94

● Exacta (1/3) $4.53 ● Triple (1/3/4) $17.62 ● $.10 Superfecta (1/3/4/2) $4.70

SECOND-1-mile pace; nw11671l5; purse $21,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 7:14 TIME-28.0; 56.3; 1:25.0; 1:53.3

2	RockTheBelles(TButr)	34.46	10.14	6.54
8	AyeAyeCaptainN(BHolland)		7.56	5.48
5	Heza Risk Taker A (J Bartlett)			9.56

● Exacta (2/8) $76.53 ● Triple (2/8/5) $682.79 ● $.10 Superfecta (2/8/5/1) $150.61 ● Daily double (1/2) $25.10

THIRD-1-mile pace; 15000clm; purse $15,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 7:36 TIME-28.1; 57.2; 1:25.4; 1:55.1

4	I'mTlknHngry(JStrttn)	4.14	3.04	2.44
5	Gothic Rock (J Bartlett)		4.72	2.78
2	Artist Best (T Buter)			2.70

● Exacta (4/5) $8.06 ● Triple (4/5/2) $27.29 ● $.10 Superfecta (4/5/2/3) $8.15

FOURTH-1-mile pace; invitation; purse $43,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 7:58 TIME-27.1; 56.0; 1:23.2; 1:50.1

6	SweetBechLf(MKkly)	6.40	4.02	2.14
1	Celtic Spirit N (B Holland)		5.60	4.42
2	Gorgeous Big Guy (T Buter)			3.24

● Exacta (6/1) $30.80 ● Triple (6/1/2) $97.59 ● $.10 Superfecta (6/1/2/3) $23.25 ● $1 Pick 3 (2/4/6) $110.33 ● $1 Pick 4 (1/2/4/6) $227.60

FIFTH-1-mile pace; 3-6yo30clm; purse $20,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 8:21 TIME-28.2; 57.3; 1:26.4; 1:54.2

4	Paxamillion(JBartlett)	3.02	2.20	2.10
1	Zebs Krafty (J Stratton)		2.84	2.20
5	Thong Control (P Lachance)			3.24

● Exacta (4/1) $3.30 ● Triple (4/1/5) $10.43 ● $.10 Superfecta (4/1/5/2) $2.54 ● $1 Pick 3 (4/6/4) $17.77

SIXTH-1-mile pace; nw15831l5; purse $23,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 8:44 TIME-27.4; 56.3; 1:24.1; 1:52.1

4	Finvarra A (J Bartlett)	5.22	2.98	2.36
6	Blue Lou (M Kakaley)		9.02	4.28
1	Play Action Pass (T Buter)			2.38

● Exacta (4/6) $15.01 ● Triple (4/6/1) $45.05 ● $.10 Superfecta (4/6/1/2) $14.52 ● $1 Pick 3 (6/4/4) $12.47

SEVENTH-1-mile pace; nw20000l5; purse $28,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 9:06 TIME-27.4; 56.3; 1:24.3; 1:53.1

3	JmpngjckmcN(BHllnd)	3.42	2.10	2.10
6	Udderly Sweet A (JBartlett)		2.24	2.12
2	Laser Speed (M Kakaley)			3.14

● Exacta (3/6) $3.21 ● Triple (3/6/2) $9.47 ● $.10 Superfecta (3/6/2/8) $7.00

Scr: Papi's Rocket.

EIGHTH-1-mile pace; nw30000l5; purse $33,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 9:27 TIME-27.3; 55.4; 1:23.2; 1:51.4

1	Verdun (P Lachance)	2.50	2.10	2.10
2	Young Bluey A (M Kakaley)		2.68	2.10
3	Kwick Sand A (J Stratton)			2.58

● Exacta (1/2) $2.15 ● Triple (1/2/3) $5.00 ● $.10 Superfecta (1/2/3/6) $2.15

NINTH-1-mile pace; 15000clm; purse $15,000

TRACK: CONDITION-FT OFF: 9:49 TIME-28.1; 57.2; 1:25.3; 1:55.1

2	DecsonDay(JStratton)	4.20	2.52	2.10
6	Ozone Blue Chip (JBartlett)		4.22	2.68
4	Last Beach (B Holland)			2.18

● Exacta (2/6) $7.41 ● Triple (2/6/4) $22.42 ● $.10 Superfecta (2/6/4/3) $5.89 ● Late double (1/2) $3.20 ● $1 Pick 3 (1,3/1/2) $4.12 ● $1 Pick 4 (4/1,3/1/2) $15.71 ● $1 Pick 5 (4/4/1,3/1/2) $32.87

Total Handle-$410,837.

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	12	2	4	40	35	14
Inter Miami CF	11	2	5	38	45	32
New England	9	5	3	30	28	21
Chicago	9	6	2	29	32	23
NYCFC	7	6	5	26	31	24
Cincinnati	7	6	5	26	45	44
Charlotte FC	7	7	4	25	29	27
Red Bulls	7	7	4	25	29	39
D.C. United	5	5	8	23	26	29
Orlando City	6	10	2	20	30	47
Columbus	5	8	5	20	26	28
Toronto FC	3	7	8	17	24	32
Philadelphia	4	10	4	16	25	33
CF Montréal	4	10	4	16	24	35
Atlanta	3	12	3	12	19	33

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	3	4	34	38	17
Los Angeles FC	10	5	4	34	35	19
San Jose	10	5	3	33	37	24
Houston	9	6	2	29	25	24
Real Salt Lake	8	6	3	27	29	25
FC Dallas	7	5	6	27	32	25
St Louis City	7	6	5	26	24	24
Portland	7	8	3	24	33	33
Seattle FC	7	7	3	24	20	22
Minn. United	6	6	6	24	20	25
Colorado	7	10	1	22	27	25
LA Galaxy	5	7	7	22	24	29
San Diego FC	5	7	6	21	32	29
Austin FC	4	9	5	17	22	36
Sporting K.C.	4	12	2	14	18	46

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday
Houston at New England, 4:30pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Gotham FC	**11**	**3**	**4**	**37**	**23**	**12**
Washington	11	4	3	36	26	13
Utah Royals FC	10	5	3	33	31	19
San Diego	10	6	2	32	24	19
Kansas City	9	7	2	29	29	25
Portland	8	6	4	28	28	25
North Carolina	7	6	3	24	26	23
Angel City	7	7	2	23	24	17
Seattle	7	7	2	23	20	21
Orlando	7	9	2	23	22	26
Denver Summit FC	5	6	5	20	22	21
Boston Legacy FC	5	8	5	20	19	24
Houston	5	8	4	19	19	25
Bay FC	5	9	3	18	18	24
Louisville	4	11	2	14	21	34
Chicago	4	13	0	12	9	33

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday
North Carolina at Denver Summit FC, 10pm
Friday
Louisville at Orlando, 7pm
San Diego at Gotham FC, 8pm
Saturday
Utah Royals FC at Denver Summit FC, 4pm
North Carolina at Washington, 6:30pm
Kansas City at Houston, 8:45pm
Sunday
Portland at Boston Legacy FC, 4pm
Bay FC at Chicago, 7pm
Angel City at Seattle, 9pm
Friday, August 14
Kansas City at Gotham FC, 8pm
Denver Summit FC at San Diego, 10pm
Chicago at Seattle, 10pm
Bay FC at Utah Royals FC, 10pm

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	19	11	.633	—
Atlanta	18	11	.621	½
Liberty	18	13	.581	1½
Washington	16	12	.571	2
Chicago	11	19	.367	8
Toronto	10	19	.345	8½
Connecticut	7	23	.233	12

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	25	6	.806	—
Las Vegas	21	9	.700	3½
Golden State	20	9	.690	4
Dallas	19	11	.633	5½
Los Angeles	11	17	.393	12½
Phoenix	12	19	.387	13
Portland	11	19	.367	13½
Seattle	6	26	.188	19½

Monday
Liberty 95, Seattle 83
Las Vegas 109, Atlanta 87
Phoenix 106, Chicago 101
Tuesday
Toronto at Golden State, 10pm
Wednesday
Seattle at **Liberty**, 7pm
Phoenix at Atlanta, 7pm
Dallas at Washington, 7:30pm
Los Angeles at Chicago, 9pm
Thursday
Las Vegas at Indiana, 7pm
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 9pm
Toronto at Portland, 10pm

Liberty 95, Storm 83

Seattle

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Johnson	30:06	8-15	7-9	0-3	3	2	25
Malonga	28:00	6-11	4-4	0-6	1	4	17
Magbegor	21:20	2-6	0-0	0-5	2	2	4
Hiedeman	32:44	6-13	2-2	0-1	7	2	17
Melbourne	24:19	2-4	0-0	1-1	4	1	5
Fam	19:49	1-8	1-2	5-9	1	4	4
Samuelson	14:27	1-5	0-0	1-1	1	0	2
Dolson	10:51	2-2	0-0	0-0	1	1	5
Horston	10:13	0-2	0-0	0-3	1	2	0
Cooke	8:11	1-5	2-2	0-0	0	0	4
Totals	200:00	29-71	16-19	7-29	21	18	83

Percentages: FG .408, FT .842. **3-point goals:** 9-29, .310 (Hiedeman 3-7, Johnson 2-6, Dolson 1-1, Melbourne 1-1, Malonga 1-3, Fam 1-4, Magbegor 0-1, Cooke 0-3, Samuelson 0-3). **Team rebounds:** 7. **Team turnovers:** 1. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Dolson, Magbegor, Malonga). **Turnovers:** 7 (Malonga 3, Fam 2, Johnson, Magbegor). **Steals:** 7 (Johnson 3, Hiedeman 2, Magbegor, Samuelson). **Technicals:** None.

Liberty

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Allen	25:58	0-4	0-0	2-5	1	2	0
Stewart	31:11	8-16	8-9	1-8	6	3	24
Jones	30:28	7-16	2-3	2-7	2	1	20
Astier	22:46	4-5	3-3	0-0	2	2	12
Ionescu	29:24	7-10	0-0	0-2	5	4	18
Xu	18:21	2-4	0-0	3-7	0	0	6
Gardner	15:45	3-6	0-0	0-3	1	1	6
Fauthoux	14:25	1-4	0-1	1-4	5	0	3
Johannes	11:42	2-3	0-0	0-0	1	1	6
Totals	200:00	34-68	13-16	9-36	23	14	95

Percentages: FG .500, FT .813. **3-point goals:** 14-34, .412 (Ionescu 4-6, Jones 4-10, Johannes 2-3, Xu 2-3, Astier 1-1, Fauthoux 1-2, Gardner 0-2, Allen 0-3, Stewart 0-4). **Team rebounds:** 10. **Team turnovers:** 3. **Blocked shots:** 6 (Allen 2, Stewart 2, Jones, Xu). **Turnovers:** 12 (Ionescu 5, Johannes 2, Jones 2, Astier, Fauthoux, Xu). **Steals:** 2 (Allen, Xu). **Technicals:** None.

Seattle	18	25	24	16—	83
Liberty	28	22	29	16—	95

A: 15,312 (17,732). **T:** 2:00.

No Cam do as Schlittler chased early

By BRIAN LEWIS
and DAN MARTIN

Cam Schlittler has been near-perfect on the road and poor at home.

It's a trend the Yankees and their ace are going to have to figure out and fix.

The righty suffered through the second-shortest stint of his career, giving up four earned runs in just three innings against the Cardinals. Schlittler's usually immaculate control abandoned him as he walked a season-high five.

"I take pride in having control and limiting those walks. Don't really have an excuse for it," Schlittler said. "So it wasn't my night, and I got to be better there."

Schlittler walked leadoff hitter JJ Wetherholt and served up a two-run shot to Alec Burleson. Then came José Fermin's RBI double and Nathan Church's RBI single.

"I feel fine. [I] didn't get in that rhythm," Schlittler said. "I've just got to be better. Things have been a lot easier on the road. I feel like I've been dominant on the road and haven't been able to do that here. And it's frustrating. At some point, we've got to make an adjustment, and I've got to perform in front of the fans."

It's an odd trend heading in the wrong direction.

While Schlittler has been great on the road — 8-2 with a 1.10 ERA — after Monday, he's just 2-4 with a 4.32 ERA in 10 starts in The Bronx.

"The bad ones I have are always here, and that's frustrating. Things should be easier here playing in front of our fans," Schlittler said. "Frustrating for them, too. They come here expecting good performances and not being able to deliver. I've got another opportunity Sunday and just got to be better."

Manager Aaron Boone added: "He just never got into a good rhythm. I felt like a lot — for him — noncompetitive pitches where some easy takes for them."

YANKEES NOTES

➤ As one top prospect is set to arrive in **George Lombard Jr.**, a former No. 1 prospect is heading back to the minors, as **Jasson Domínguez** was optioned to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre following Monday's loss to make room for newly acquired **Heliot Ramos**.

The Yankees chose to keep **Spencer Jones** on the major league roster. Jones has hit better than Domínguez of late and can play center field.

Domínguez has struggled at the plate and on defense, where he's limited to the corner outfield spots.

➤ **Carlos Rodón** and **Clarke Schmidt** are getting closer to rejoining the pitching staff after coming back from elbow injuries.

Rodón pitched two innings of live batting practice Monday at the Stadium and the left-hander said the session went well.

The lefty may make a minor league rehab appearance Saturday, according to Boone and GM **Brian Cashman** said Rodón (left elbow inflammation) could be back this month.

Schmidt, coming back from last year's Tommy John surgery, is scheduled to throw three innings of live BP Tuesday at the Stadium, with a minor league rehab assignment likely not far behind.

Since there's not enough time — or a need — for Schmidt to build up to being a full starter, the Yankees are focused on getting him ready for a shorter role.

Cashman said it was "possible," but "unlikely" that rookie **Carlos Lagrange** would recover from his shoulder injury in time to contribute this year.

➤ To open up a spot for **Luis García Jr.**, **Max Schuemann** was optioned to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

FOUR-IN AFFAIR

Pochettino re-ups through 2030 Cup — and U.S. Soccer better hope he fulfills term

Ethan Sears

VIRTUALLY no one outside U.S. Soccer thought that Mauricio Pochettino would stay as the men's national team coach after the World Cup, so factor that into the wave of skepticism regarding his staying all four years of the next cycle.

Four years is the length of the extension that the federation announced Monday morning. If Pochettino stays for the duration, it will likely prove to be the right move for the national team, which — setting aside for a moment its spectacular Round of 16 flameout against Belgium — progressed both culturally and in its style of play under the Argentine's leadership.

The prospect of a full four-year cycle in which Pochettino can operate with more time and latitude than he had leading into this World Cup is more compelling than the other options at U.S. Soccer's disposal.

The U.S. won't lack competitions, with the Nations League coming up, the Gold Cup next summer, a likely home Copa America in 2028 and World Cup qualifying after that. Pochettino, whose insistence on taking friendlies seriously has been a trademark of his tenure, is the right person to ensure not just players, but the fanbase the USMNT started to build this summer, understand the importance of it all, starting with the next international window in late September.

Under him, the U.S. turned into an aggressive team that could take the game to its opponent, use its technical ability as a weapon and control the flow of the game. That is a formula to dominate CONCACAF, and though there's certainly a question of whether it can work against the best teams in the world, there's no manager under which that question wouldn't exist.

Pochettino has the background to make you think he's got a chance of solving that problem. The way U.S. Soccer CEO J.T. Batson has spoken about Pochettino suggest that he can help instill an identity throughout the program, not just the senior national team.

Bringing him back is the right call only if he is as committed to every step of the cycle as he expects his players to be.

U.S. Soccer understood the situation better than everyone else in assessing the chances he'd be back to begin with. It needs to be right again that, at some point between now and 2030, Pochettino won't be back on a Premier League touchline in North London.

If the decision-makers in Fayetteville, Ga., are wrong in that conviction, then so too will be the decision to bring Pochettino back. Steve Cherundolo, the former LAFC coach hired to lead the U-23 squad that will compete at the LA Olympics in two years — a hiring process that happened with Pochettino's involvement — would be the obvious candidate in such a scenario, and having him as a safety net helps. Still, given the importance of time on task in soccer, and how little time a national team coach gets with his team, even a relatively seamless coaching change is a major setback.

Pochettino, who spent his career at the club level before taking the U.S. job, has been open in the past about his desire to return to the English Premier League. Eight Premier League teams hired new managers this summer, though nearly all of those came before the U.S. was eliminated from the World Cup.

Pochettino was evasive at the start of U.S. camp when asked about reports he had met with Italian giant AC Milan, but it's worth returning to something else he said during that roundtable, insisting that if he were to leave, he would never do so before his contract with the national team was up.

"We commit with the national team, the U.S. men's national team, until we finish the World Cup," Pochettino said. "And we, in this nearly two years, we have so many different approaches [from teams] and we always say, we finish the contract in July after the World Cup."

Whether there was ever a serious chance for Pochettino to go back on that, only he and his representatives know. The same goes for whether he would have rejected a return had a better job opened after the World Cup.

But he's here now, and U.S. Soccer is again banking on its read of the situation over what most outsiders will believe.

It better be right.

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STICKING WITH IT: After flirting with the idea of returning to club soccer, Mauricio Pochettino agreed to a four-year deal to stay on with the USMNT. Getty Images

Pact again being backed by hedge fund billionaire

By ETHAN SEARS

Turns out, it wasn't all just smoke when U.S. Soccer officials talked about bringing back Mauricio Pochettino for another cycle.

The U.S.'s embarrassing 4-1 defeat at the hands of Belgium that ended its World Cup didn't change how anyone felt.

The federation announced Monday morning it is retaining Pochettino as its manager through the 2030 World Cup — a decision that had gained momentum after it initially seemed the two sides would go in different directions following the sour end to the World Cup.

Contract talks picked up in the past few weeks after the two sides initially conversed prior to the World Cup.

Hedge fund billionaire Ken Griffin is again providing financial backing for Pochettino's salary, extending the commitment he made to bring the former Tottenham and Chelsea manager aboard in 2024.

Given the manner of the loss to Belgium, the decision to bring the 54-year-old Pochettino back could be deemed controversial.

Though he seemed to push all the right buttons until the Round of 16, his team didn't show up ready to play in what was, without a doubt, the biggest game the USMNT has had in decades, if not ever.

A full cycle that includes a likely Copa America — which the U.S. would play in 2028 should it host, as is presumed — as well as World Cup qualifying after it qualified automatically for this one will be a chance for Pochettino to grow the cultural seeds he planted over the past 18 months.

"Working together with U.S. Soccer over the past two years, it has become clear to us that there is tremendous potential to make the men's national team program even stronger," Pochettino said in a statement. "We want to try to have a lasting impact on the sport in the country that has welcomed us so warmly and for that impact to extend beyond results on the field."

Most national team coaches only stay in charge for one cycle, and Pochettino had talked openly about wanting to go back to the club level, particularly in England's Premier League. Perhaps seeing the U.S. rally around the team stirred something in him, or perhaps he feels there is merely unfinished business.

The state of the post-World Cup coaching carousel — the biggest jobs that were open two months ago were already filled, including AC Milan, which was linked with Pochettino in late May before hiring Ruben Amorim — likely was a factor as well.

Bailey winning fans on O-line

By ZACH BRAZILLER

You can add Armand Membou to the expanding David Bailey fan club.

The young offensive tackle has only had a few training camp practices opposite the Jets rookie, but the edge rusher has already left an impression on Membou.

JETS NOTES

"It's been a pain, man," he joked Monday after the first padded practice of camp. "He's a great player. He's just smooth, he's quick, he's got a natural ability to rush the passer. It's been a good matchup going against him.

"With his first step, he has the ability to threaten tackles with his speed off the edge, and once he does that, he can threaten you with that power."

Bailey was the second overall pick in April's draft after registering 14.5 sacks at Texas Tech last season. The hope is he can help improve a pass rush that was 31st in the league a year ago with a paltry 26 sacks.

➤ Rookie tight end **Kenyon Sadiq**, coming off a hernia operation in May, was given a day off Monday after taking part in the first three practices of training camp, coach **Aaron Glenn** said. ... Glenn does not expect defensive tackle **T'Vondre Sweat** (hamstring), defensive end **Joseph Ossai** (undisclosed) or cornerback **D'Angelo Ponds** (calf) to return to practice this week, but he doesn't believe the trio will miss much more time.

"We want to be very careful with all three of those guys," he said. "Listen, we have a role for all three of them. ... I don't think they'll be out too much longer, but we want to do the right thing and make sure we have those guys ready for the regular season."

➤ Monday marked the first padded practice of Jets camp.

"I thought the competitive nature was right where we wanted it to be," Glenn said. "I think our guys are really understanding exactly how we want to practice."

Not done yet

BACK FOR MORE? A new NCAA eligibility rule means that St. John's and coach Rick Pitino have room to add one more player. They're looking at several options, including former Red Storm standout Dillon Mitchell, who was drafted in the second round by the Celtics but has yet to sign a guaranteed contract.

Robert Sabo (2)

Johnnies still working on roster — and Mitchell reunion possible

By ZACK BRAZILLER

As it turns out, St. John's roster is not complete, and the Johnnies are in the market for a difference-maker to add to an already strong squad, according to sources.

The new five-for-five NCAA eligibility rule that is being challenged in court by last season's seniors has created the potential for the Johnnies to land another impactful player.

International high school recruit Gildas Gimenez was recently ruled academically ineligible, which opened up a spot on St. John's roster, sources said.

St. John's has expressed interest in high-scoring Auburn wing Keyshawn Hall, and former Red Storm standout forward Dillon Mitchell is another option, according to sources. Mitchell was drafted in the second round (40th overall) by the Celtics but has yet to sign a contract with Boston. He is looking for a guaranteed deal. If that doesn't materialize, a return to school is possible.

The 6-foot-7 Hall had a big year last season for Auburn, averaging 19.3 points and 7.1 rebounds while shooting 37.9 percent from 3-point range on 4.7 attempts. Mitchell, an athletic demon at 6-foot-8 and stalwart defender, was a big part of the Johnnies repeating as Big East regular-season and postseason champions. A key two-way contributor, he produced 8.3 points, 7.0 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.3 steals.

Mitchell was part of the Red Storm's dynamic frontcourt that also featured Big East Player of the Year Zuby Ejiofor and Bryce Hopkins. He excelled in a point-forward role, serving as a playmaker that made others around him better. Mitchell helped St. John's reach the Sweet 16 for the first time in 27 years.

St. John's is high on Senegalese forward Babacar Sane, but it would like to add another proven forward. Syracuse transfer Donnie Freeman was lost for next season after tearing his Achilles tendon during offseason workouts.

In June, the NCAA passed a new rule that allowed for five seasons of eligibility in five years. But it didn't grandfather in the rule for last year's seniors, as it did for juniors, sophomores and freshmen.

Those players filed lawsuits for an extra year, and in most instances, they have won. On Friday, U.S. District Judge Charlotte Sweeney granted a class-wide preliminary injunction against the NCAA's age-based eligibility rules. The NCAA is appealing that decision.

Several players, including Hall, are plaintiffs in cases won in Ohio and Tennessee, which enable them to enter the portal by court order and gain a fifth year of eligibility.

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MEM’ ON A MISSION

Second-year tackle committed to taking his game to next level

AARON Glenn knew the moment Armand Membou walked out of his exit interview at the end of last season.

That’s when the Jets head coach knew he was going to get an even better season in 2026 out of his 22-year-old, 6-foot-4, 332-pound right tackle than the one he delivered in his rookie season.

“I just knew he was going to come back in the offseason program stone-faced and ready to go,” Glenn said Monday after the first full-padded Jets practice of training camp. “Coming back from this offseason program, he was on a mission. You could see it in his face. From the weight room to the field, everything was a business approach, and you can see that carrying into every practice. Doesn’t matter if it’s a walk-through or not, he’s operating at a professional level right now.”

Mark Cannizzaro

The truth is, Membou was operating at a professional level long before that exit interview with Glenn, the offseason or this training camp.

His offensive line coach at Missouri, Brandon Jones, told me a story the day after Membou was drafted about stopping by the football office on a day off after the season was over and seeing him alone running the steps outside the Missouri football stadium.

“What are you doing out here on an off-day?” Jones asked him.

“I need to get back to it, Coach,” Membou told him.

Asked Monday where that work ethic comes from, Membou gave a “shoutout to” his high school coach from Lee’s Summit in Missouri, Jamar Mozee, who’s now an assistant head coach at Nebraska.

“He really molded me from a young age, instilled in me the mindset of having that work ethic,” Membou said. “To play at those high levels, to get to the NFL, you can’t just do what everyone else is doing. You’ve got to take that extra step.”

By phone Monday, Mozee told a story about Membou coming to him at the end of his sophomore season at Lee’s Summit to tell him he was going to quit football.

“Armand was on the tennis team, and he was not a great football player in those early years, freshman and sophomore years,” Mozee said. “He was still growing into his body. Usually, when guys are [not on varsity] as sophomores or juniors, that means they’ll probably have a hard time ever playing on Friday nights unless something drastically changes.”

Two things drastically changed — one attributed to Mozee, who talked Membou out of quitting football, and the other to genetics and time, as Membou grew into his large frame.

“I remember he came by the weight room with his tennis racket in his hand and was telling me he wasn’t going to play football anymore,” Mozee said. “I said, ‘No, you’re not quitting.’ I wasn’t saying that because I thought he’d become a pro. It was mainly because I wanted him around. He was a great kid and I thought the program would benefit him too.

“So, he stayed and when he came back for junior year, his body totally, freakishly changed. He got bigger, started growing into his body. And the rest is history.”

“Watching him his senior year, it was clear right out of the gate,” Mozee said. “This was not normal, how good he was, how strong he was, how much balance he had, the way he could put it all together, the way he’d handle other kids in high school.

“He was just that much better than everybody else physically. He’d just dismantle everybody. It was almost dangerous the way he’d block people and get rid of them. Recruiting in college now, I still haven’t seen anything like it. It was just different.”

Membou said his offseason determination had a lot to do with never having to go through a 3-14 season again.

“Obviously, you know what happened last year,” he said. “We can’t have that happen again.”

Membou said he feels like he “played solid … did well for a rookie,” but added, “I need to be way more consistent if I want to get to where I want to go.”

Where is that?

“I want to earn the respect of my peers in the league and become a top tackle,” he said.

Mozee — who said, “I love him like a son,” and speaks to Membou regularly — has told him “he can be as good as he wants to be.”

“If that guy wants to play 10, 15, whatever years, he can do it,” Mozee said. “If he wants to wear a gold jacket [as a Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee] one day, I really believe with all my heart he can do that.

“That’s also the challenge. How much are you willing to sacrifice? Are you going to keep working, staying hungry? How much do you love football?”

Mozee knows the answers to those questions.

And now, after that exit meeting, Glenn does, too.

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TRAINING DAY

SUPER COOPER

Rookie wide receiver **Omar Cooper Jr.** made the catch of the day, an over-the-shoulder grab along the sideline over safety **Andre Cisco.** During 7-on-7 drills, Cooper made a terrific adjustment on the long **Geno Smith** pass, which was behind him.

BUTTERFINGERS

The ball was on the ground too much. Jets receivers didn’t handle the rainy conditions well. **Garrett Wilson** was among those who had a drop.

CAUGHT MY EYE

It was a strong day by the defense, which got the better of the offense. That included a **Minkah Fitzpatrick** interception of Smith on an overthrown pass over the middle. It was the Jets quarterback’s first interception of training camp. Safety Dane Belton was active, frequently getting into the backfield.

INJURY REPORT

DT **T’Vondre Sweat** (hamstring), DE **Joseph Ossai** (undisclosed) and CB **D’Angelo Ponds** (calf) remain week to week. … TE **Kenyon Sadiq** (hernia) was given a day off. *— Zach Braziller*

FOCUS FACTOR: Armand Membou, after a strong if not spectacular rookie season, already was looking ahead to 2026 as soon as the 2025 season was over.
Bill Kostroun (2)

Jets out to pick it up a notch

TURNOVER A NEW LEAF: Jets corner Brandon Stephens says he lost sleep over Gang Green's interception drought last season and is determined to take the ball away this season.
Bill Kostroun

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The Jets made the wrong kind of history last year as the first team to go a full season with making an interception.

They broke the previous low of two, set by the 49ers in 2018, an ignominious mark the secondary hopes to atone for this season.

Brandon Stephens admittedly thinks about it frequently.

"I tell myself that even in my sleep, man," the No. 1 Jets cornerback said after practice Monday. "That's definitely something we have to do in order to win games. You have to take the ball away to give yourself an advantage. That's definitely the focus. How could it not be?"

It was a poor year for the defense all around in Aaron Glenn's first season as head coach. The Jets allowed the second-most points per game (29.6), fourth-most rushing yards (139.5) and eighth-most total yards (355.6). They also registered only four takeaways, a league low.

Stephens didn't want to dwell on it too much in the offseason, but it was hard to shake the memory of the secondary's inability to take the ball away.

"This is a new season to prove myself, prove ourselves as a team, so we have to continue to work at it out there," he said.

Changes were made. Veterans DeMario Davis (linebacker), Nahshon Wright (cornerback) and Minkah Fitzpatrick (safety) were brought in and Glenn will take over play-calling duties.

"Schematically, I don't know if I want to go too far into that, but I will say this: physical, violent, disruptive, and I say disruptive from a quarterback, disrupt the skill players, and disrupt the pocket," Glenn said when asked for the characteristics he wants to see on defense. "I'm looking for guys that can do that. So, I guess if you can sum it all up, men that are highly disruptive."

Fitzpatrick, who had an interception in Monday's practice, has 21 career picks in his 10-year career, and Wright had five last season with the Bears. Throw in rookie corner D'Angelo Ponds, who had seven interceptions in three years at Indiana and James Madison, and there are newcomers who have a history of taking the ball away.

"There's only one way to work on interceptions and punching the ball out: It's by doing it in practice," Stephens said. "Whether that's in individual drills or team periods, just always being conscious of the ball, where it's at. Capitalizing when the opportunities present themselves."

Second-year cornerback Azareye'h Thomas, who is battling Wright to be the No. 2 corner across from Stephens, believes it is important that the secondary doesn't abandon its principles by seeking interceptions. Overcompensating can create issues in other areas. While the Jets want to improve in that department, they can't get themselves out of position by doing so.

"Of course that's a big factor, but we're not going out there not doing our job, so we can go get the ball," Thomas said. "Everybody has to do their job, and everything will take care of itself."

With that said, the Jets know this is something that has to get better, and they believe they have the pieces in place to significantly up their turnover totals.

"It's very important," Thomas said. "As a secondary, you take the ball away, you give your offense more chances to go score, and for us to go win."

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Young corner won't let surgery hold him back

By SPENCER BROD

Azareye'h Thomas was ready to prove himself, ready to make the most of his opportunity, ready to show he should be a long-term starter.

But disaster struck.

Just as Thomas was getting the chance to compete for a starting cornerback spot due to Sauce Gardner's departure, he suffered a shoulder injury in Week 14 and was placed on injured reserve, ending his rookie season early.

It was unfamiliar territory for Thomas, as it was the first serious injury he had suffered and first time he underwent surgery.

"Who wouldn't be frustrated?" Thomas said when asked about his frustration level over the injury. "You work all your life to get to this moment and you go out with injury. ... It was different [because it was my first time requiring surgery]."

"I'm a physical player. I'm not afraid to go down there and hit," Thomas said. "I know I had the surgery and everything, but that ain't stopping me. I actually feel like my shoulder is stronger than it's ever been."

After an up-and-down rookie campaign, Thomas enters 2026 in a battle with veteran Nahshon Wright for a starting spot opposite Brandon Stephens.

Rookie D'Angelo Ponds could also make a push to start, but he's likely suited for the slot, leaving the competition mainly between Thomas and Wright.

The cornerback duel won't be a cakewalk for Thomas considering Wright had five interceptions with the Bears last season. But Thomas, a third-round pick last year out of Florida State, is ready to prove himself again.

"My mindset is taking it one step, one day at a time with my teammates," Thomas said. "Continue to be a great teammate, showing up every day, that's my mindset."

Thomas showed several flashes in 2025, recording at least one pass deflection in six straight games, tied with Darrelle Revis for the second-longest streak by a Jets rookie since 2000.

Thomas finished his rookie campaign with 22 tackles and seven pass deflections while displaying solid physicality.

But it was far from perfect, as his 55.1 Pro Football Focus grade ranked 87th among 114 qualified cornerbacks and his 55.5 coverage grade was 86th.

Entering Year 2, Thomas said he's emphasizing trusting himself more to make plays.

"Really just trusting my eyes, trusting my study," Thomas said. "I feel like last year I hesitated a lot on a lot of things. I feel like there were a lot of plays I left out there."

AZAREYE'H THOMAS
Back from shoulder surgery

TRAINING DAY

GOOD HANDS

WR **Malachi Fields** continues to make a big play a day. This time, the rookie's highlight was a sideline catch over **Paulson Adebo** in 7-on-7, though he also was effective on slants. **Dalen Cambre** added an acrobatic catch where he ripped it away from the defense. **Calvin Austin III** is emerging as a major security blanket for all the quarterbacks.

A BAD VET

In a rain-soaked practice, QB **Jameis Winston** finished 8-for-21, missing an easy fourth-and-short throw and dodging a goal-line interception when CB **Deonte Banks** dropped a gimme. Part of the value of having a veteran quarterback is supposed to be getting good evaluations of the other second-teamers.

CAUGHT MY EYE

Under coordinator **Dennard Wilson**, the defense does 10 post-practice push-ups for every penalty. That made for 40 on Monday, though veteran DT **D.J. Reader** suggested they should take 10 off the top for every takeaway — and **Jevón Holland** and **Micah McFadden** had interceptions.

INJURY REPORT

In the middle of an active practice that showed he likes contact, CB **Colton Hood** subbed out with what looked like a stinger but came back after he was evaluated by trainers and committed a fourth-down holding.

— Ryan Dunleavy

THRILLED TO

Prized Giants rookie showing he has chance to be 'special'

THEY SMILE, or even chuckle, at the mere mention of No. 52.

A star is being born at Camp Harbaugh and his name is Arvell Reese.

The prized rookie was the best player on the field on a penalty-filled day under a drenching rain when the pads came on for the first time.

He was everywhere … in the backfield for a sack against left tackle Andrew Thomas, for a TFL, and on a couple of other occasions when he looked like a human magnet tracking device.

On both sides of the ball, they are gushing about Arvell Reese.

"No. 52 — that boy!" Tyrone Tracy Jr. said. "He's big, strong, physical. He's a great football player.

"Arvell is See Ball, Get Ball.

"I think that's the best way to describe him: See Ball, Get Ball. He's gonna run fast, he's gonna hit hard and he's gonna be around the ball at all times."

At 6-foot-4 and 241 pounds, Reese will be disrupting passing lanes over the middle alongside 6-foot-4½, 250-pound Tremaine Edmunds. With his 4.46 speed, Reese will be bringing See Ball, Get Ball to chase down the likes of Saquon Barkley and even Jayden Daniels should he be needed as a spy.

"I think he's gonna be a pretty good damn player," Jermaine Eluemunor said. "I'm glad he's on our team, I'll say that. He's quick, he's physical. You can tell that he truly loves this game and that his instincts are just … ridiculous.

"I like him a lot. He's a great kid, in the locker room, on the field. He's a respectable young man, and I think he's gonna be a tremendous player for us this year."

Steve Serby

Defensive coordinator Dennard Wilson viewed Reese during the draft process as a linebacker first and foremost. But the promise of him evolving into a dangerous pass rusher raises his ceiling to the roof.

Nose tackle D.J. Reader is a key cog on the wall the Giants are intent on building to replace Dexter Lawrence so that Reese and Edmunds can range and roam and SEE BALL, GET BALL behind it.

"Kid has a real chance to be special," Reader said. "You don't really get a chance to see kids that size move around like how he does at every different position, really run around, and … he's smart and he stays quiet, and really tries to learn. So he's got a real chance to be really good."

Much was made about Harbaugh's history with middle linebackers such as Ray Lewis and C.J. Mosley and Roquan Smith and Patrick Queen, and the Giants' interest in Sonny Styles, Reese's Ohio State teammate who was drafted at No. 7 by the Commanders. Never in their wildest dreams did Harbaugh and general manager Joe Schoen believe that Reese would fall into their laps with the No. 5 pick.

"He's been playing well the whole camp since he got here," Harbaugh said.

Asked what stands out about Reese, Harbaugh said: "You see the talent, obviously. I think he's very sharp for a first-year guy, gets things right pretty much all the time, makes very few mistakes. He's a very serious-minded guy, and he's very determined. He's doing things well."

The Jets passed on Reese because Aaron Glenn and GM Darren Mougey craved the draft's best pass-rush prospect in LOLB David Bailey, who is drawing rave reviews in Florham Park as the second overall pick in the draft. Reese's New York career, of course, will be measured against Bailey's New York career.

Scouts and personnel people for the most part debated the likelihood of Bailey making a more immediate impact versus Reese's greater upside.

But it doesn't appear the Giants will have to wait very long for that upside. Reese opened eyes last week when his SEE BALL, GET BALL act saw him racing over and batting away a Jaxson Dart pass over the middle for Odell Beckham Jr. with his long arm of the law.

Reese told me this about himself right after the draft: "I say I'm a guy who's big, fast, good instincts. I say I got a knack for a football. I love being around the football. I say I play violent with my hands. I say I'm rangy, I run sideline to sideline, then I say I got relentless effort."

Reese was not without his critics. A scout said this to longtime NFL writer Bob McGinn for Go Long: "As an inside linebacker, I loved everything about Reese, but his instincts give me a little bit of a concern. I'm not taking a linebacker in the top 10 that I'm not sure about his instincts. Either you have that or you don't. There's not a whole lot you can do to minimize it."

Bottom line: You can't GET BALL if you can't SEE BALL.

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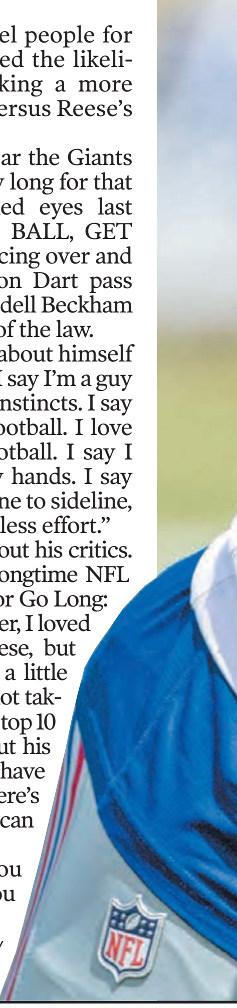

TYRONE TRACY JR.

Big Blue running backs preparing to 'run

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — If he really wants to set the mood for practice, the disc jockey stationed at the entrance to Giants training camp should consider adding 2008's Billboard Hot 100 hit "Check Yes, Juliet" to the playlist.

"Run baby run / Don't ever look back / They'll tear us apart / If you give them the chance."

Let the song's chorus serve as a reminder that an offense under head coach John Harbaugh is usually driven by the physicality and production of its blockers and rushers, so predictably the run game was a focus Monday as players donned pads for the first time on a rain-soaked field.

"We don't see it as a lot of weight on our shoulders, we see it as opportunity," said Tyrone Tracy Jr., who is coming off back-to-back seasons with more than 1,000 yards from scrimmage.

"Opportunity to show ourselves, opportunity to really show the NFL who we are and what we can be. I think we can be a premier running back group."

Cam Skattebo had one of the few long runs for the Giants on a day when Harbaugh estimated that "the defense probably got the better of the offense up front," especially with rookie linebacker Arvell Reese closing holes.

That's a good sign for a defense accustomed to finishing near the bottom of the NFL in rushing yards allowed per game — four straight years ranked No. 26 or worse — but not the start envisioned by an offense with four returning starters on the line and a new 300-pound Pro Bowl fullback (Patrick Ricard) to lead the way for five returning running backs.

At least the top three of Tracy, Skattebo and Singletary, as well as Ricard, seemed to welcome contact and held the ball tight as arms reached in for the strip.

"With the type of offense we're going to run this year, that's going to be a huge quality that will help us in the long run," right tackle Jermaine Eluemunor said. "We're not going to shy away from contact on any level — the offensive line, running backs, receivers.

"We're going to be a team that wears you out, and by the fourth quarter you probably don't want to be in the game because we're just going to keep going and keep going and keep going, taking those body shots. And then, when the fourth quarter comes, go for that knockout punch. That's the type of team that we want to be, the team that Harbs is preaching."

REESE'S

FIRST IMPRESSION: Giants rookie Arvell Reese has quickly made his presence felt during training camp, with Jermaine Eluemunor saying "he's gonna be a pretty good damn player."

Corey Sipkin (4)

the ball a lot' with Harbaugh at the helm

Harbaugh doesn't have an equivalent proven workhorse of three-time Pro Bowler Ray Rice or future Hall of Famer Derrick Henry, but his Ravens still ranked No. 1 in the NFL in rushing attempts and No. 2 in yards with Gus Edwards as the leading rusher paired with quarterback Lamar Jackson.

John Harbaugh

"In practice, we run the ball a lot," Skattebo said. "I think what they say is what they're going to do ... and me and the guys in the room with me are going to have a really good year."

The 2018 Ravens assistant head coach — Greg Roman — is the Giants run game coordinator now.

"There's really no gray area, and it's not just one way to run the ball," Tracy said. "He's calling the same run, but out of different formations, different motions, different pullers. There's a whole bunch of different stuff going on, but he's making it very simple and easy for us to learn."

The offense Monday was beset by pre-snap penalties, but the Giants' run-game installation didn't begin on the first day in pads — as is the case with some teams. The identity was on display last week — before wrap-and-release tackling was allowed.

"I think in prior years, obviously, you don't want to practice the run without full pads on," Eluemunor said. "But this year, I think that we really opened up some of the run game.

"And you can't wait until the pads come on to really dig into that. You can work on your footwork, your technique, making sure your head is in the right place. Then you just focus on the big things like shedding the block, hitting, moving throughout the line of scrimmage. So, I think that the practice we put in is going to help us in the long run."

The running-into-walls Skattebo joked that he is trying to create a "meaner" version of Tracy.

"As a running back, we want to be more physical, we want to be more aggressive," Tracy said. "And that's really our motto, that's really one of our pillars going into this year. [Monday] was a good evaluation of where we're at. [Tuesday] we're going to take a step in the right direction."

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Penalties pile up on sloppy 1st day in pads

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — The patriotic row of flags lined up above the front entrance to The Greenbrier Resort was outnumbered Monday by the penalty flags littering the nearby football field.

The Giants were called for at least 13 penalties — nine on offense and four on defense — during a sloppy, rain-soaked first practice in pads. Flags flew on five straight plays (four offensive) at one point from the crew of local high school officials. The range of penalties included everything from false starts to defensive holding on fourth-and-long to delay of game.

"I think that guys are just real jittery on Day 1 of full pads," right tackle Jermaine Eluemunor said. "We've been working so hard since April ... and when you put pads on you start feeling like a little kid again. And I think that tomorrow or the next day or the next day after that, you'll see that go down tremendously because guys will just really lock in."

Head coach John Harbaugh calmly pointed to the first day in pads and the weather as reasons for the penalties, but the Giants know to expect an earful when watching film. The offense generally subs out penalty committers, while the defense is given 10 post-practice push-ups for each penalty.

"He's going to call everyone out in front of the team, but also you just have to know that you have to be better," said Eluemunor, who was flagged twice. "Me, obviously, I think some of them were B.S., but it's whatever. Had a couple penalties last year. So, I think penalties are worse than sacks because they can affect the team. They can affect the drive. They can affect the momentum. And everyone on the team understands that."

Harbaugh said he was reminded of his former coach at Miami-Ohio saying "every single day — rain, sleet, snow, hot — is a great day for football.

"And that was kind of a little bit of the theme out here. I mean, it's raining pretty good. And the guys are out there dealing with the elements — obviously impactful. But we'll have to play in that at some point."

The Giants will practice each of the next five days — mostly in pads.

"The second week is the big week of camp," Harbaugh said. "The second week should be where you cover the most miles, gain the most ground. ... This is just a go-to-work week. Just get better. That's really what we're focusing on this week. Not too much evaluating."

CAN'T GO HOLMES: Clay Holmes never quite made it back to the field for the Mets as they made the expected move to trade the starting pitcher before he could return from a fractured right fibula. He goes to the Cubs in a deal that netted prime prospect Jefferson Rojas.

Jason Szenes

NOT GOING

Amazin' flurry of moves remakes farm system as Holmes, relievers dealt

By MIKE PUMA

CLEVELAND — Six trades later, the Mets makeover is finished.

The organization's final tally as Monday's 6 p.m. trade deadline passed was seven players jettisoned over five days and 11 prospects imported. If nothing else, president of baseball operations David Stearns was active in overhauling a roster that has been MLB's most disappointing this season.

Such is life for a team that assembled a $380 million payroll but has cratered to a 47-66 record and last place standing in the National League East.

Any hopes of a revival were dashed with a plunge into the abyss in late June that forced manager Carlos Mendoza's firing. It left the Mets as sellers at the trade deadline for the second time in four seasons.

"I believe it was the right thing to do given where we are in this season to make these decisions," Stearns said on a video call. "These are not easy decisions, and our goal is to move the organization forward in the best way possible to ensure that we have a far better season next and each season beyond."

On a whirlwind Monday, the Mets completed their final four deals of the trade season involving major league players. The two most noteworthy trades occurred in the late afternoon: Clay Holmes and Tyrone Taylor were dealt for the Cubs' No. 2 prospect, infielder Jefferson Rojas. It followed the trade that sent Luke Weaver to Pittsburgh for the Pirates' No. 9 prospect, infielder Sammy Stafura. The Mets are sending about $8 million to the Pirates as part of the deal.

Earlier in the day, the Mets traded Huascar Brazobán and Brooks Raley to the White Sox and Phillies, respectively. From the White Sox, the Mets acquired Chicago's No. 18 prospect Gabe Davis, a right-handed pitcher, and Zach Franklin, an unranked right-handed pitcher. From the Phillies the Mets acquired Philadelphia's No. 27 prospect, outfielder John Spikerman, and right-handed pitcher Luke Gabrysh, an unranked prospect.

A day earlier the Mets traded Freddy Peralta to the Rays for outfielder Aidan Smith, right-handed pitcher Gary Gill Hill and infielder Émilien Pitre. Those three players ranked as the Nos. 15, 26 and 27 Rays prospects.

Stearns acknowledged

Who's in & who's out

OUTGOING

- RHP **Clay Holmes** to Cubs
- OF **Tyrone Taylor** to Cubs
- RHP **Luke Weaver** to Pirates
- LHP **Brooks Raley** to Phillies
- RHP **Huascar Brazobán** to White Sox
- RHP **Freddy Peralta** to Rays
- LHP **A.J. Minter** to Twins

BIGGEST RETURNS

- INF **Jefferson Rojas** from Cubs. The 21-year-old is a blend of speed and power — a top 100 prospect.
- INF **Sammy Stafura** from Pirates. The Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., native was the No. 2 Reds pick in the 2023 draft.

REST OF THE HAUL

- INF **Billy Amick**, Twins No. 21 prospect
- INF **Bruin Agbayani**, wins No. 29 prospect
- INF **Émilien Pitre**, Rays No. 27 prospect
- OF **Aidan Smith**, Rays No. 15 prospect
- RHP **Gary Gill Hill**, Rays No. 26 prospect
- RHP **Gabe Davis**, RHP, White Sox No. 18 prospect
- OF **John Spikerman**, Phillies No. 27 prospect
- RHP **Zach Franklin**, White Sox unranked prospect
- RHP **Luke Gabrysh**, Phillies unranked prospect

Rojas, Stafura brightest

By MIKE PUMA

CLEVELAND — The Mets may have saved their best two additions at this trade deadline for last.

Jefferson Rojas and Sammy Stafura are those names to watch. Both infielders arrived to the Mets on Monday in separate deals just hours before the 6 p.m. deadline.

Rojas, the No. 2 Cubs prospect, was acquired in a deal that sent Clay Holmes and Tyrone Taylor to Chicago. The Mets landed Stafura, the No. 9 Pirates prospect, in a trade for Luke Weaver.

Rojas, 21, plays third base and shortstop. In 91 games this season in Double-A, he owns an .800 OPS with 15 homers and 17 stolen bases. He becomes the No. 1 Mets prospect, according to MLB Pipeline.

JEFFERSON ROJAS

SAMMY STAFURA

"A very well-rounded offensive profile," president of baseball operations David Stearns said. "He's young for his level and has really done exactly what you would want to see a player do who was a really well thought of amateur on the international market and has really just performed and progressed

QUIETLY

ON DECK: at Guardians

Tuesday, 6:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

LHP Sean Manaea

2026 stats:
2-5, 4.42 ERA

Career vs. CLE:
3-1, 3.66 ERA

Last start:
Wed., vs. ATL;
6 IP, 2 ER, 4 K

PITCH BREAKDOWN

37%	31%	21%
4-Seamer	Sweeper	Sinker

LHP Joey Cantillo

2026 stats:
8-6, 3.88 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
First appearance

Last start:
Wed., at CIN;
4 IP, 0 ER, 8 K

PITCH BREAKDOWN

35%	28%	26%
4-Seamer	Curveball	Changeup

UP NEXT

WED.: at Guardians, 6:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Nolan McLean vs. RHP Slade Cecconi

THU.: at Guardians, 1:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
TBD vs. RHP Tanner Bibee

INJURY REPORT

- **Juan Soto** will be sidelined until September as he rehabs a left calf strain. Soto missed nearly three weeks in April with a right calf strain.

the difficult decisions the Mets faced in trading Weaver and Brazobán, both of whom were under club control for next season. The rest of the players dealt are set to hit free agency after this season.

"Really tough decisions there, and not straight forward," Stearns said. "We had a lot of internal discussion and debate. Ultimately, the returns we were able to get we thought made sense in the best interest of the organization, recognizing that at this time of year you are often able to get really good talent back for relief pitching. We understand we're going to have to go out and acquire relievers in the offseason in different ways to get our bullpen back to where we expect it to be in 2027."

The Mets looked to trade veteran outfielder Luis Robert Jr., according to a source, but a deal never materialized for the veteran outfielder, who has spent most of this season on the injured list. Robert's contract, which is paying him $20 million this season, has a club option for 2027.

Why keep Robert?

"I think with Luis, it's the possibility of what he can do for us in the second half, the understanding that there is a club option and the excitement of still having him here for the next few months of the season," Stearns said.

Five of the 11 players the Mets acquired were infielders, but Stearns said that course wasn't dictated by design.

"I think our approach was: What's the best talent?" he said. "It's so difficult to know exactly what roles you are going to need at the major league level at any point in time and so our approach was really, what's the best talent? Who are the players that we think have the ability to be the best major league players?"

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gems from prospect haul

throughout his development."

Stafura, 21, hails from Cortlandt Manor in Westchester County, where he attended Walter Panas High School — and grew up rooting for the Mets. He was a second-round pick by the Reds in 2023 before he was sent to the Pirates in a deal for Ke'Bryan Hayes at last year's trade deadline.

In 60 games this season over two Class-A levels, Stafura owns a .960 OPS with 20 homers.

"The first thing that jumps off the page with you on Stafura is the defense," Stearns said. "He's got tremendous defensive ability. He's a very good base runner and can impact the game in a variety of different ways."

Stearns noted that Stafura hit 14 homers over the last month.

"We have seen some bat-speed upticks," Stearns said. "Clearly, we have seen some exit velocity upticks that have allowed him to get there. This is a player who has real power, who can hit the ball out of the ballpark. When you have that combination, whether it's doubles power, home run power, plus someone who can play at a high level at shortstop those aren't easy players to find."

Stearns was asked whether the Mets prioritized packing two players for a top prospect, was the case in the Rojas deal.

"Those are the type of deals that we explored throughout the past week," Stearns said. "We had a lot of interest in a number of our players and so when you have that and you have the same team with interest in multiple players it does give you the ability to package or be creative. We explored a number of those concepts and the Rojas deal was the one that actually came to fruition."

Bombers take big L for deadline activity

A lot happened on deadline day, but nothing to knock the perennially superb Dodgers off the top spot of our annual winners list. And if form holds, that's the way this season and World Series may play out too.

The Dodgers do a brilliant job of drafting and developing, and some say they also do an equally terrific job of marketing their prospects, which might be the secret sauce in their stellar trading record. Their deal for superstar starter Tarik Skubal solidified their reputation as baseball's best organization a couple days before the deadline.

Here are all our winners and losers:

Winners

1. Dodgers. The acquisition of Skubal gives them arguably baseball's two best pitchers (with Yoshinobu Yamamoto) and one of the best and deepest rotations of all time. They also enhanced their chances to keep Skubal long-term. It's normally all about the money, but the Dodgers have a way of convincing baseball's best players to play there for less too.

2. Padres. GM A.J. Preller always seems to find a way. Even though they have a mostly barren farm system, he figured out how to land two frontline starters, Robbie Ray and Casey Mize, who are very much needed since they are a bottom five team for starter ERA. They didn't get the lefty bat they sought and have to hope the co-stars Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis Jr. keep showing improvement off their ultra-slow starts.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Jon Heyman

3. Cubs. They did exactly what they needed to, adding two fine starters (Clay Holmes, Kevin Gausman) and a big bullpen arm (Ryan Zeferjahn). Plus, Tyrone Taylor, who came with Holmes, brings a hot bat and nifty glove, and lefty Braxton Garrett is a very underrated arm.

4. Orioles. Sellers don't usually make my winners list. But that haul for All-Star catcher Adley Rutschman was so overwhelming that I can't resist. Everyone especially loves young right-hander Anthony Eyanson, who came with four others.

5. Guardians. Foster Griffin, who's establishing himself as a solid left-hander, is a nice get to round out a fine rotation and give them a chance in a weak division. There might also be better in store for Jo Adell, once one of the top prospects in the game.

6. White Sox. It's nice to see the White Sox buying after three straight 100-loss seasons, and Luis Castillo, Huascar Brazobán, Brenton Doyle and Joey Bart fit their needs.

7. Pirates. Luke Weaver was the best reliever traded, plus they added two more bullpen pieces, Luke Bachar and Kirby Yates. This was an excellent job of fulfilling needs despite one of the weakest bullpen markets ever.

8. Mariners. They needed a bat, and Taylor Ward works. He hasn't shown the sort of power as last year when he hit 36 home runs, but he's become an on-base machine.

9. Mets. I liked their strategy of aiming for quality not quantity. Packaging Holmes and Taylor for big-time infield prospect Jefferson Rojas was a great idea, and the trade of Luke Weaver to the Pirates for five-tool shortstop prospect Sammy Stafura, who has 16 home runs in his last 22 games, is a coup.

Losers

1. Yankees. They needed bats, and especially righty bats, and catching help, and they wanted another big bullpen piece to fortify a solid group but came up short. They did get the lefty-hitting Luis García Jr., who was leading the National League in slugging, and righty-hitting Heliot Ramos, and while both will help, neither is a full-time righty bat. Both players, even García, look like platoon guys for the Yankees.

Imagine that, García was a full-time player for the Nats, one of the best-hitting teams in baseball, and he's now not quite full-time for the Yankees, who can't buy a run lately (their run production is down by more than a run a game since Aaron Judge went out). Making matters worse, they didn't get bullpen help or any kind of catcher, meaning they will hope for better from Austin Wells and Co. (who rank 29th in OPS).

2. Brewers. Everything they do is logical, and almost everything works out for them. Dustin May and Antonio Senzatela help, but I can't help but wonder if this was the one time to offer big prospects (and they have many) to land Skubal to pair with the amazing Jacob Misiorowski.

3. Rays. They are another terrifically run small-market team and they make consistently smart moves. But like the Brewers, failing to land Skubal is a letdown. Liam Hicks is a nice bat, Tyler Wells is a very good arm and Freddy Peralta was a stud before he got to Queens. But even though they lead the AL in wins, it feels like they missed out.

4. Braves. Where is the second frontline pitcher to go with Chris Sale? Their moves were solid, as usual, including Tyler Mahle for the rotation and Lane Thomas for the outfield, but no game changers. They did call on ex-Mets great Jacob deGrom but he didn't want to leave Texas.

5. Phillies. Luis Arraez is terrific despite bizarrely struggling in free agency. But is it worth moving three players to new positions on a team already ranked 19th defensively by fielding run value? It's a creative plan to accommodate Arraez at 2B by switching Bryson Stott to 3B, Alec Bohm to 1B and Bryce Harper to RF. Brooks Raley helps a so-so pen.

6. Red Sox. They are killing it on the field, and they just might be the best team in the AL so I certainly get going all in. But this looks like a major overpay for Rutschman.

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DEEP TROUBLE

Yankees' five homers not enough as pen implodes late in loss to Cardinals

By DAN MARTIN

A few hours after Brian Cashman said he tried to improve the Yankees bullpen at the trade deadline and came up short, one of his offseason additions helped cost them in a crushing loss at the Stadium.

On a night when the flailing Yankee offense roared back from a six-run deficit to take the lead in the bottom of the seventh, thanks to a go-ahead homer from new first baseman Luis García Jr., Angel Chivilli imploded in the eighth in a 13-7 loss to St. Louis.

CARDINALS 13
YANKEES 7
Boxscore Page 37

The right-hander entered with a runner on third and no one out in the top of the eighth, following pinch hitter Blaze Jordan's leadoff triple off Ryan Yarbrough.

Chivilli, acquired from the Rockies in January and solid since getting back to the majors last month, allowed six straight batters to reach base and score — including Nathan Church, whose three-run homer put the Cardinals up for good.

But St. Louis wasn't done tormenting Chivilli, as two batters later, Jimmy Crooks crushed a two-run shot out to right to put the Yankees in a four-run hole.

And Alec Burleson then went deep for his third homer of the game — and the third home run allowed by Chivilli in the seven-run inning.

"I feel really good about the pen," Aaron Boone said. "You're gonna have an occasional night like this. Part of this is the stretch we're in."

The bullpen has been taxed and Boone noted that the lineup hasn't given them much margin for error for a long period of time.

ANGEL IN DISGUISE: Austin Wells looks down as Nathan Church is all smiles after hitting a three-run home run off Angel Chivilli in the eighth inning of the Yankees' 13-7 loss to the Cardinals. Chivilli allowed five hits, three homers, a walk and six runs in the frame, allowing a 7-6 lead to slip away. Jason Szenes (2)

But Monday was especially rough for Chivilli, who managed to complete the inning, but needed 37 pitches to do so and was optioned to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre after the loss.

Prior to the game, Cashman acknowledged he entered the deadline looking for relievers. He was unable to land one and expressed optimism that a return to health for Carlos Rodón from elbow inflammation would push one current starter into the pen, with Clarke Schmidt potentially joining the bullpen after he completes his rehab from Tommy John surgery.

But that plan didn't help the Yankees on Monday.

The miserable night started with Cam Schlittler delivering a clunker, knocked out of the game after just three innings and 83 pitches.

In his brief outing — Schlittler's shortest of the season — the right-hander gave up four runs and tied a season high by walking five batters.

"I don't have an excuse," Schlittler said. "It wasn't my night. I've got to be better."

Lefty Tim Hill took over to start the fourth and gave up a two-out, two-run homer to Burleson, his second of the game.

The Yankees got back in it with an Austin Wells two-run shot in the fifth, which was followed by a blast by Trent Grisham.

The back-to-back homers got the Yankees within three runs.

They added four more in the seventh, with García's monster shot to right-center capping the inning, the Yankees' fifth homer of the night. But Yarbrough faltered to start the eighth and Chivilli, who hadn't allowed an earned run in 13 straight appearances, tossed gas on the fire.

The right-hander walked the first batter he faced, Masyn Winn, before Church took him deep.

And things only got worse, as Chivilli allowed six runs before being booed off the mound.

It was an ugly way to open the stretch run, as the Yankees hoped to boost an offense that has struggled without Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton — and more recently, Cody Bellinger.

García's heroics weren't enough.

On Tuesday, they'll welcome Heliot Ramos to The Bronx, acquired in a trade from the Giants, as well as shortstop George Lombard Jr., who is getting his long-awaited call-up from the minors.

Whether this new-look roster has enough to make a run at a division title — or more — will be determined over the next two months.

"We're a confident group," Wells said. "We expect to win every day."

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Yankees notes / P. 41

Catching spot belongs to Wells for remainder of season

By DAN MARTIN

Following weeks — or months — of uncertainty, the Yankees finally landed on their starting catcher the rest of the season.

It's Austin Wells.

It was no secret the Yankees wanted to acquire a right-handed-hitting catcher by Monday's trade deadline.

With Minnesota's Ryan Jeffers seemingly off the market and Baltimore's Adley Rutschman going to Boston, the Yankees were left with the same setup they had going into the deadline: Wells and Ali Sánchez splitting time behind the plate the rest of the way.

General manager Brian Cashman said the "limited opportunity" to trade for a catcher helped lead to the Yankees staying put. He acknowledged again the team has struggled offensively for much of the season — especially at catcher. But he also added the team has been encouraged by Wells' improved results over the past month.

"I think Austin has got his offense going the past month," Cashman said. "It's a much more successful version and much closer version to what he's capable of. I hope he's trending in the right direction."

Then Wells went out and had a pair of hits — including a two-run homer — in the Yankees' 13-7 loss to the Cardinals.

Wells said he was unaffected by the vote of confidence the Yankees showed in him, saying his approach to his game would be "the same either way. I have no control on that [trade situation]."

Cashman praised Wells' defense and handling of the pitching staff.

In his past 16 games, Wells has an OPS of .973, with four homers.

Prior to that stretch, the lefty-hitting Wells had a paltry .468 OPS in his first 62 games and he still had the worst OPS of any player with at least 250 plate appearances (.537).

"He does possess a lot of potential with that bat," Cashman said. "Hopefully he's able to tap into it and save his best for the rest of the way."

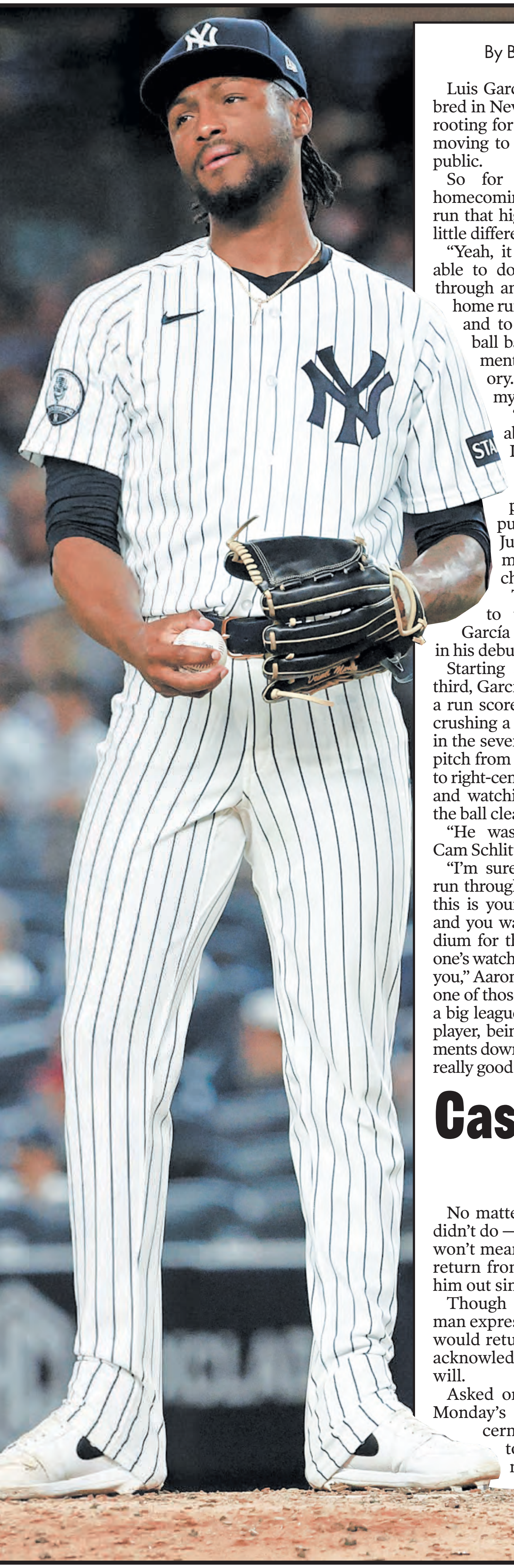
It's the latest twist for Wells, who was drafted by the Yankees as a bat-first catcher and remained one throughout his minor league career.

Many outside the organization believed Wells would wind up moving out from behind the plate.

Instead, Wells became a solid pitch-framer and the Yankees value his ability to game-plan against hitters — but his offense has declined steadily.

Earlier in the season, he was sidelined by cervical headaches. He said he's seeing the ball better since his return, which has helped lead to his uptick at the plate.

"The last three or four weeks, he's moved the needle back to who he can be and that's a real presence at the bottom of the order, with some power," manager Aaron Boone said.



García's dramatic debut gets wasted

By BRIAN LEWIS

Luis García Jr. was born and bred in New York and grew up rooting for the Yankees before moving to the Dominican Republic.

So for García, Monday's homecoming — and the home run that highlighted it — hit a little different.

"Yeah, it means a lot to be able to do that," García said through an interpreter. "Hit a home run in Yankee Stadium and to be able to get the ball back, it's a great moment there, a great memory. So I'll keep that in my heart.

"It means a lot to be able to connect there. I'm really just going there, try to do my job, try to find a pitch where I can put my team on top. Just the whole moment, I'm going to cherish it."

The Yankees fell 13-7 to the Cardinals, but García sparked the offense in his debut.

Starting at first and hitting third, García went 2-for-4 with a run scored and two RBIs — crushing a go-ahead home run in the seventh. He drilled a 2-2 pitch from George Soriano out to right-center, dropping his bat and watching with a smile as the ball cleared the fence.

"He was amazing," starter Cam Schlittler said.

"I'm sure a lot of emotions run through. You're from here, this is your team growing up, and you walk into Yankee Stadium for the first time, everyone's watching you, counting on you," Aaron Boone said. "That's one of those things about being a big leaguer and being a good player, being able to slow moments down. He obviously did a really good job of that.

GOING, GOING, GONE! Luis García Jr. celebrates with his new teammates in the dugout after his two-run homer in the seventh gave the Yankees the lead. Robert Sabo

"Very few guys are turning those double plays. And then, good at-bats, too. ... So, excited for him. Cool that he came in, first day you get settled in and have a big night. Hopefully that goes a long way in getting him acclimated where it's normal and routine for him."

That's what the Bombers are hoping for.

García had been leading the National League in slugging before the Yankees acquired him. His 24 homers and 78 RBIs are already career highs.

And the Bombers are convinced there's even more offense to unlock because of how his newfound penchant for pulling the ball will take advantage of the short porch in right.

He raked righties for a .918 OPS, and could give the Bombers a boost. They had scored just seven runs in their prior four games and 35 in their previous 12 contests.

His impact was clear and immediate. And general manager Brian Cashman dismissed any concerns of overlap between García and Ben Rice, both lefty-swinging first basemen/designated hitters.

"We went into the trade deadline looking to find ways to improve our offense, and quite simply, he does do that. He improves our offense. He gives us more flexibility, more choices, and more impact," Cashman said. "It makes us deeper and it makes us better, period."

García got the ball from his first Yankees home run, and got to debut in front of friends and family. But he'll get to play in front of many more Tuesday.

"[Monday] was just five," said García, adding with a grin, "but [Tuesday] will be 25."

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Cashman 'very optimistic' Judge will return

By DAN MARTIN

No matter what the Yankees did — or didn't do — by Monday's trade deadline, it won't mean much if Aaron Judge doesn't return from the fractured rib that's kept him out since the beginning of June.

Though general manager Brian Cashman expressed optimism the right fielder would return to play this season, he also acknowledged there's no guarantee he will.

Asked on a conference call following Monday's deadline if he had any "concern" Judge might not heal enough to get back on the field, Cashman said, "Is that possible? It's always possible that things don't go the way you want. But we currently are still very optimistic that he's gonna return."

That's why the Yankees were looking to add prior to the deadline and did acquire a pair of additions for the lineup in Heliot Ramos from the Giants and Luis García Jr. from the Nationals.

The righty-lefty-hitting duo should aid an offense that's floundered in the two months without Judge, and the situation only worsened with the loss of Cody Bellinger to a hamstring injury that will likely keep him out until September.

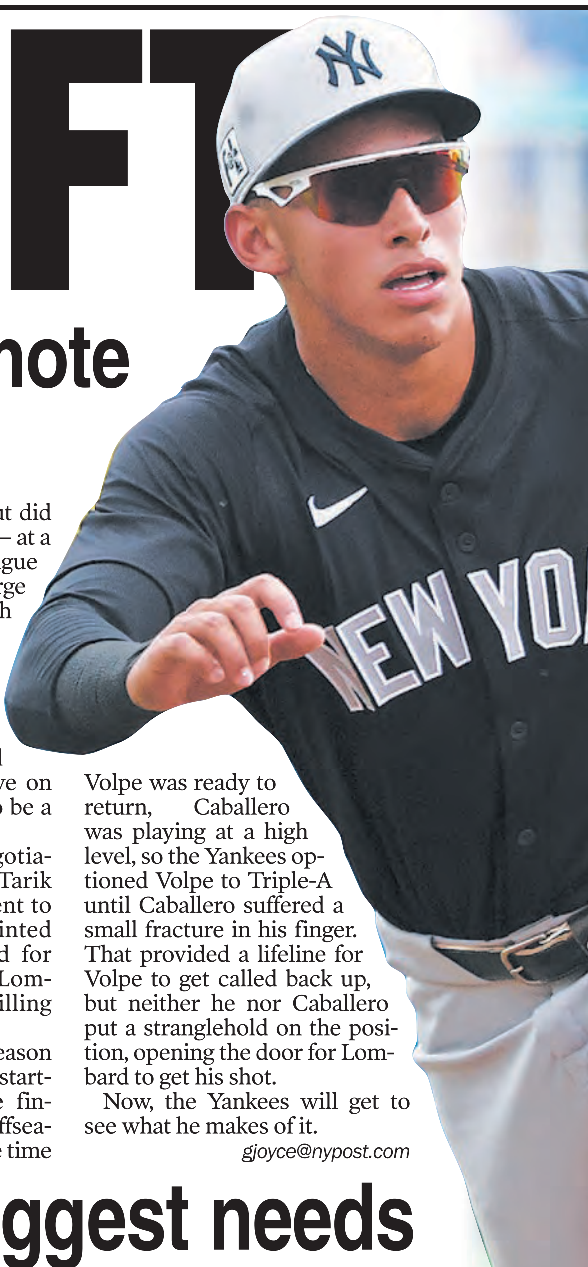
But no one the Yankees could have picked up at the deadline can make up for not having Judge, so his presence is a must for them to have a legitimate shot in October.

Of the possibility that Judge doesn't heal well enough to get back, Cashman said, "I can't rule any of it out. I know I can only follow the guidelines so far and the timeline, the time frame is there's a very high likelihood his time frame is he's back to join us. ... I know that's what he believes [and] I know that's what the doctors believe, but it's always a moving target till you get closer to deployment."

Cashman and the Yankees have consistently avoided putting a potential timeline on Judge's return — or even on when he is expected to get imaged again on the injury.

Clearly, though, it's not anytime soon, and as Cashman also said Monday, they'll have to get Judge right even when he is healthy.

SHORT SHIFT



Yanks to call up Lombard, demote Volpe after quiet deadline day

By GREG JOYCE

As far as Yankees prospects go, George Lombard Jr. was about as untouchable as they come as the trade deadline passed Monday.

That is because on Tuesday, he is being summoned for his big league debut in The Bronx.

The Yankees are calling up Lombard, a source confirmed to The Post on Monday night, to see if the 21-year-old that they hope is their shortstop of the future can deliver a spark in the present.

The club announced it was optioning Anthony Volpe to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, clearing the way for Lombard's arrival as it begins the post-deadline sprint 3 ½ games back of the Rays for first place in the AL East.

Lombard, who returned from multiple sprained fingers in mid-July, has been tearing it up at Triple-A, batting .268 with an .845 OPS across 56 games — including .377 with a 1.081 OPS in 14 games since coming off the injured list.

The Yankees were asked plenty about Lombard leading up to the deadline, when they acquired lefty slugger Luis García Jr. and righty-hitting outfielder Heliot Ramos for lesser prospects but hung on to Lombard so they could deploy him themselves beginning Tuesday.

"I think he's had an outstanding year," manager Aaron Boone said Sunday. "I think he's gotten better. I think he continues to show a ton of progress. We love the kid and the makeup. It's been fun to see him — any of your minor league players or prospects, you want to see them develop and get better. In George's case, obviously a high-profile one, that's continued to happen. It's a testament to his work ethic and his talent."

Since he arrived in the Yankees organization — as their first-round pick out of high school three years ago — the son of former big leaguer and current Tigers bench coach George Lombard has been hailed for his off-the-charts makeup and high baseball IQ. That, along with his high-level defense and offensive upside, allowed him to race through the minor leagues and should help him as he jumps into a playoff race with less than two months to go in the regular season.

GM Brian Cashman said in early July that Lombard was "plug and play ready to go" defensively, which should provide a solid floor for his introduction to the big leagues. It remains to be seen what the Yankees get out of him offensively — he has typically taken at least a few weeks to adjust to new levels — though he demonstrated a high on-base ability and some emerging power throughout his time in the minors, and now will have a runway to settle in before October arrives.

After the deadline passed Monday, Cashman indicated that the Yankees had explored adding a shortstop or infield help but did not ultimately see a match — at a deadline when no major league shortstops got traded. A large part of that had to do with Lombard looming.

"I don't think there were a lot of opportunities that existed that were upgrades for us," Cashman said. "We like the players we have and we like the players we have on the come. ... It was going to be a high bar."

When describing his negotiations with the Tigers on Tarik Skubal, who ultimately went to the Dodgers, Cashman hinted that they may have asked for (and refused to move off) Lombard, a price he was unwilling to pay.

The Yankees began the season with José Caballero as their starting shortstop while Volpe finished off his rehab from offseason shoulder surgery. By the time Volpe was ready to return, Caballero was playing at a high level, so the Yankees optioned Volpe to Triple-A until Caballero suffered a small fracture in his finger. That provided a lifeline for Volpe to get called back up, but neither he nor Caballero put a stranglehold on the position, opening the door for Lombard to get his shot.

Now, the Yankees will get to see what he makes of it.

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Bombers add platoon OF, but can't fill biggest needs

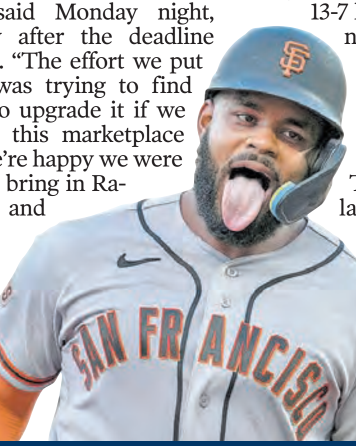
By GREG JOYCE

The league played a game of musical catchers chairs Monday, and when it stopped, the Yankees got left out.

The trade deadline came and went without the Yankees addressing their biggest positional need from an offensive standpoint — plus not adding a reliever for the first time since 2019 — making for an underwhelming final haul of first baseman/DH Luis García Jr. on Sunday and outfielder Heliot Ramos on Monday.

While García may have been the best bat dealt at the deadline — and an important addition for a scuffling lineup, despite not being a perfect positional fit — the Yankees were not able to land a catcher like their two biggest foes in the AL East or upgrade the bullpen, instead hoping that the two bats they acquired along with the injured stars they are banking on returning later in the season will be enough to give them a legitimate chance to chase a 28th championship in October.

"As we move forward in this, we do think we have the players ... that can compete for a championship," Cashman said Monday night, shortly after the deadline passed. "The effort we put forth was trying to find ways to upgrade it if we can in this marketplace and we're happy we were able to bring in Ramos and García to solve some of the problems. We're looking forward now to getting the other guys back from the IL over time to fortify and finish us off for a supercharge."



To make matters worse for the Yankees — who fell 3 ½ games back of the Rays for the division and best record in the American League with Monday's ugly 13-7 loss to the Cardinals — the two teams they are sandwiched between in the AL East both acquired catchers. The Red Sox landed Adley Rutschman from the Orioles and the Rays added Liam Hicks from the Marlins. The Yankees made a push for the switch-hitting Rutschman, who is on the IL with a wrist issue, but were "unable to meet the price," Cashman acknowledged, as the Red Sox got him instead for a hefty five-player package.

"Ultimately, at the end of the day, there was no opportunity that existed for us that we felt good enough about to be able to push through on," Cashman said.

Two of the best offensive catchers in the game, the Rockies' Hunter Goodman and the Twins' Ryan Jeffers, did not get traded.

Regarding the bullpen, Cashman pointed to the lack of high-impact relievers that actually moved (i.e., the Padres hung on to both Mason Miller and Adrian Morejon) and the fact that the Yankees could eventually have internal additions in Clarke Schmidt (finishing off his Tommy John rehab) and Will Warren or Ryan Weathers (if the rotation stays healthy by the time Carlos Rodón returns later this month).

As for Tarik Skubal, Cashman said he spoke with the Tigers but was unable to get them off of the "very specific ask and a certain player we weren't willing to play with in that arena" — likely top prospect George Lombard Jr., whom the Yankees are calling up to make his MLB debut on Tuesday.

Of course, the Yankees already have the makings of a powerhouse rotation and instead approached the deadline knowing they needed help offensively, as they try to survive without Aaron Judge, Cody Bellinger and Giancarlo Stanton, likely until September. Cashman reiterated that their expectation is to get Judge back this season from a right rib stress fracture, but that is no sure thing.

Without Judge, the Yankees lineup has been a shell of itself.

So they acquired García, the lefty slugger who led the National League in slugging percentage, from the Nationals on Sunday and Ramos, the righty-hitting outfielder who helps against lefties, on Monday from the Giants in exchange for pitching prospect Henry Lalane and infielder Kaeden Kent.

"Ultimately, we got some of the best slug on both of these guys against opposite hands in the game as additions to our offensive lineup," Cashman said. "So I think Aaron Boone has a chance to match up better than he did as of [Sunday] when we get both of these guys here on property."

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

Cash betting on health, should have gotten help

OFF LIMITS FOR A REASON: Brian Cashman refused to include shortstop prospect George Lombard Jr. (left) in any deadline deals, settling for adding only platoon outfielder Heliot Ramos (bottom left) on Monday. But after an ugly loss to the Cardinals, it was learned Lombard is heading to The Bronx.

Charles Wenzelberg/ NY Post; Getty Images (2)

Joel Sherman

THE magic trick by Brian Cashman and the New York Yankees was never making a righty-hitting catcher or late-game reliever appear.

That would have seemed impossible to believe all the way up to the actual trade deadline considering the overt needs and the general history of Brian Cashman addressing shortcomings this time of year.

But 6 p.m. Monday arrived without bringing Hunter Goodman, Ryan Jeffers, Adley Rutschman, Mason Miller, Adrian Morejon or Luke Weaver. Heck, it didn't bring Tyler Stephenson and Rico Garcia.

The Yankees are held to such a high standard that acquiring the National League leader in slugging percentage (Luis García Jr.) plus Heliot Ramos felt like eating a single peanut after a fast.

But with so much on the table, Brian Cashman placed a bet on the 2026 Yankees — the team already assembled. He is gambling that especially Aaron Judge, but also Cody Bellinger and Giancarlo Stanton will return in the coming weeks to revive an offense that has looked for six weeks like something that Alvaro Espinoza dragged in.

Cashman is risking perhaps a whole season that Carlos Rodón will return to the rotation and displace either Will Warren or Ryan Weathers into the bullpen, where they ultimately will be joined by Clarke Schmidt and perhaps Luis Gil.

George Lombard Jr., who Cashman protected at this deadline with a ferocity the Giants and Jets can only dream their offensive lines can muster in front of Jaxson Dart and Geno Smith, is being promoted Tuesday with the Yanks envisioning his defense and athleticism will energize them.

But that is hoping a lot of injured players heal quickly — and that no more get hurt to join them. It is believing that a slew of starters can seamlessly handle the role change to reliever. And it is dreaming on a prospect who was allowed to legally drink for the first time June 2.

There is enough talent with a healthy Judge and the rotation at full strength for these Yankees to rise to the top of the AL East and ultimately the best of the AL. But more reinforcements were needed to make that statement with greater confidence — and those never came.

A moment for perspective:

In 2007, the Yankees had an inept setup group trying to get the ball to Mariano Rivera. At the deadline, the Yankees and Red Sox battled for Eric Gagné, an elite closer for Texas, to be their eighth-inning man (for Boston in front of Jonathan Papelbon). Cashman refused to include Melky Cabrera or Ian Kennedy. Boston was willing to include an elite prospect named Engel Beltré to land Gagné.

Soon after the deadline, I said to a Yankees official some form of "Congratulations for giving a championship to the Red Sox." I was right as Boston won the title. But it was in spite of Gagné, who was terrible, which enabled the Yankees to almost make up what was a seven-game AL East deficit at the deadline.

So keep in mind that perception of winners at the deadline often varies from reality. Still, how do you not notice that the Yankees needed a catcher and the team in front of them in the AL East (Rays, Liam Hicks) and the team coming fast behind them (Red Sox, Adley Rutschman) added catchers?

The Yanks and the Red Sox were the finalists for Baltimore's Rutschman. Boston was willing to move an eye-opening prospect haul to land the switch-hitting catcher, who has a wrist injury and is due back in about two weeks. Cashman, as is his wont this time of year, refused to part with his best prospects to complete a trade. Austin Wells has been having better at-bats since just before the All-Star break. That is encouraging. Having a better safety net than Ali Sánchez would have been even more so.

The relief market never formed as hoped and so there were no outside additions at a time when Aaron Boone's circle of trust of David Bednar, Paul Blackburn, Fernando Cruz and Brett Headrick has been heavily used and under constant duress because the lineup cannot create any margin for error.

The Yanks have to hope that García, who beats up righties, and Ramos, who does well against lefties but struggles defensively can provide enough to help the lineup survive and advance until that uncertain date when (if?) Judge, Bellinger and Stanton return.

One of the reasons the Yankees did not do more is that lots of go-for-it trades in the last few years had thinned organizational depth. But Cashman in 2018 called the Yankees "a fully operational Death Star." And that is not true because what that looks like is the current Dodgers, who outdo the Yankees in willingness to spend, row upon row of prospects and a willingness to use both to secure the elite players they desire. The Dodgers did not need Tarik Skubal, but they had so many prospects and so much money lying around and a hunger to become the first three-peat champs since the 1998-2000 Yankees that they couldn't resist.

The Yankees at this deadline failed to even shoot par. They got two platoon-y bats when a righty-hitting catcher and more pitching depth also felt vital.

This was not the behavior of a Death Star.

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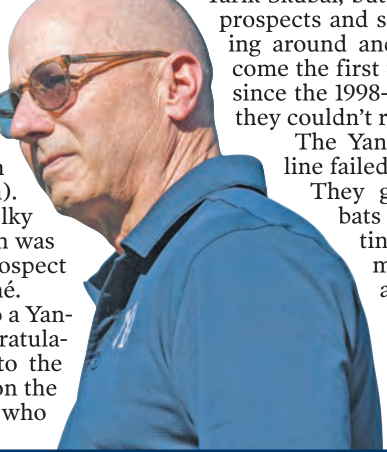

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INJURY REPORT

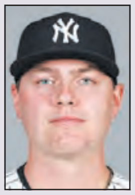
Giancarlo Stanton (calf) took swings off Carlos Rodón during the lefty's live batting practice Monday. Rodón said the slugger looked good. He's been out since April 24 with two different calf injuries.

ON DECK

vs. Cardinals

Tuesday, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

LHP Ryan Weathers



2026 stats: 4-7, 3.99 ERA

Career vs. STL: 0-0, 2.70 ERA

Last start: Thu. at CHW; 7 IP, 3 H, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

25%	25%	21%
Changeup	4-Seamer	Sweeper

RHP Hunter Dobbins

2026 stats: 2-1, 3.74 ERA

Career vs. NYY: 2-0, 2.45 ERA

Last start: July 27 vs. CHC; 5.1 IP, 7 H, 4 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

32%	17%	17%
4-Seamer	Sweeper	Slider

UP NEXT

WEDNESDAY: vs. Cardinals, 7:05 p.m., Prime Video, WFAN
TBD vs. RHP Will Warren

FRIDAY: vs. Braves, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

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STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

“**A Private Life”** (Netflix) is proof that **Jodie Foster** (below) still has it. Not that we ever doubted her. She makes many of the film’s individual moments work.
OUR CALL: STREAM IT

Sony Pictures

WHAT TO WATCH

“The Drama” (HBO Max) stars **Zendaya** (left) as Emma Harwood, who is engaged to be married to Charlie Thompson (Robert Pattinson). Both leads, alongside supporting actors Mamoudou Athie and Alana Haim, deliver engaging, entertaining performances that will have you laughing out loud. But the best part about “The Drama” is that it raises interesting questions about morality, judgement, and forgiveness.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO
WATCH.
WHEREVER
YOU WATCH

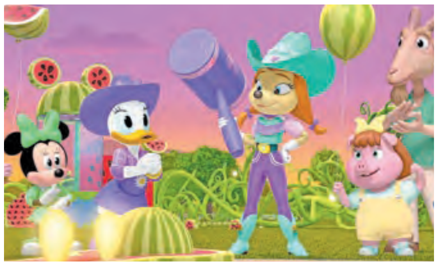
JOINING THE ‘CLUBHOUSE’

Megan Hilty talks guest-starring in the new ‘Mickey Mouse Clubhouse+’ special

By ALEX VENA

Meeska, Mooska, Megan Hilty!

The Tony-nominated actress recently lent her voice to the latest **“Mickey Mouse Clubhouse+”** special, “Mickey’s Country Farm.” The new special sees Donald, Daisy, Goofy, Pluto, Minnie, and Mickey set out to build the Fairest Farm Fair Ever in hopes of drawing the attention of Daisy’s cowgirl idol, Lasso Lucy, voiced by Hilty. As Hilty recalled to DECIDER while visiting our studio this week, recording the role proved to be “a little more overwhelming” than she initially thought it was going to be.



“I don’t know what I expected, but when I went in to record my vocals, I put on my headphones and everybody else had already recorded their parts. So all of my heroes, like Mickey and Minnie and Daisy, were all in my ears,” she explained. “I started crying immediately because I’ve loved them my entire life and this specific show I raised my kids on. So to be a part of that is something so very special that’s very, very unique to Disney and ‘Mickey Mouse Clubhouse+,’ specifically.”

After Hilty’s Lasso Lucy arrives at Mickey’s Farm in style — specifically, atop her purple polka-dotted bull — and declares the gang’s farm fair to be the fairest of them all, she leads them in performing a new version of the “Hoedown Throwdown,” the song and dance popularized by Miley Cyrus in 2009’s **“Hannah Montana: The Movie.”** While Hilty admitted that she was not familiar with the “Hoedown Throwdown” before landing this gig, she did reveal herself to be a “huge” fan of Cyrus.

“So now I am very, very aware of the ‘Hoedown Throwdown’ and how famous it is. And so basically, me and Miley are like the same,” she teased. “Now that we’ve done the same song? Yeah.”

Megan Hilty (above) voices Lasso Lucy in “Mickey Mouse Clubhouse+: Mickey’s Country Farm” (left), which is streaming now on Disney+.

Jacquelyn Kozak

DECIDER: As a mom of two kids, will you be showing them this special?

MEGAN HILTY: Oh, these kids will not be able to escape this special. But they’re not gonna fight me on it. They love cartoons. And from a very early age, I mean, they were raised on “Mickey Mouse Clubhouse” and all things Disney Jr. I’ve done so many voices on Disney Jr., and they were very aware of that from a very early age. So even when they were really young, they would try to pick me out of all the characters, and I would also play games with them, saying, “Okay, so who does this character sound like? Do they sound like anybody else from a different show?” So they’re very, very aware that there are humans behind all of these animated characters.

That’s awesome. And your character, Lasso Lucy, gets to sing the “Hoedown Throwdown.” As a “Hannah Montana” fan, this was just absolutely iconic for me.

You just said many amazing things in that sentence [laughs]. Uh-huh! Yes, sorry.

Exactly. Were you familiar with the “Hoedown Throwdown” before getting this role?

Okay, I’m embarrassed to say that I was not. But hear me out. I’m just a little bit older than the “Hannah Montana” demographic when it was so iconic when it came out. I was just a a little too old for that. But I am a huge Miley Cyrus fan, like, huge, huge, huge. So now I am very, very aware of the “Hoedown Throwdown” and how famous it is. And so basically, me and Miley are like the same. Now that we’ve done the same song? Yeah.

Another one of your iconic roles is Ivy Lynn on “Smash.” Where do you see her now? Have you ever thought about where she might be now?

I think about Ivy Lynn more than I should because it’s been a long time since I played her. But wouldn’t it be interesting to pick that show up now? Find out if she had her kid and how that played in her life of a theater actress in New York? You know, I think that would be very interesting. I think it would be interesting to do a spin-off... Yeah, I think it would be so interesting to pick up right now, now that we’ve jumped ahead, what, 15 years? Is it 15 years? I don’t know, it’s been a long time. She’d have a kid, like, my daughter’s age. Oh that’s wild. Yes, I do think about it.

I was going to say, because obviously the show was then adapted into a musical on Broadway, do you see it in a movie form, another TV series?

I just very clearly see it as like a “Smash” Part 2. Same girls, 15 years later.

Sony Pictures

TRENDING NOW

“Spider-Man: Brand New Day” has made history! On Monday, it was announced that the film earned $360 million at the domestic box office in its opening weekend, besting the record previously set by **“Avengers: Endgame.”**

WHAT’S NEW

ON HBO/HBO MAX
“**Hard Knocks: Training Camp with the Seattle Seahawks**,” the start of the five-episode series.

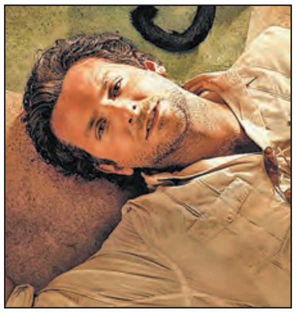
ON PARAMOUNT+
“**Special Ops True**,” a docuseries (left)

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

COMEDY

Old School: 6 p.m. on PARMT. Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell. Three friends attempt to recapture their glory days by opening up a fraternity.



ADVENTURE

The Hangover: 8:05 p.m. on PARMT. Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms. Three buddies wake up from a bachelor party in Las Vegas with the bachelor missing.

DRAMA

Joker: 11:30 p.m. on TNT. Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro. A party clown and a failed stand-up comedian, decides to embrace the life of chaos in Gotham City.

Tuesday August 4, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS   Movies 🟥   Sports 🟩   New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Evening News	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	NCIS: Army of One (R)		NCIS: Origins: Fools Rush In (R)		NCIS: Sydney: Flight Club (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Comics
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	America's Got Talent: Judges' Callbacks 1				Password: Constance Wu & Jimmy Fallon		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Extra	TMZ	Kitchen Nightmares: Borelli's Pizzeria		(9:02) Beat Shazam: No One Can Stop Them!		The 10 O'Clock News		Good Night New York	Feud Favorites (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!: Wildcard (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	RJ Decker: You've Got Bale (R)		Will Trent: Did I Screw This Up? (R)		Will Trent: A Flag in the Mud (R)		News	(11:35) Kimmel Live
9 WWOR	9	9	9	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The News on My 9		Chicago P.D.: Politics		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Chicago P.D.: Care Under Fire	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	(6:00) PIX11 News at 6	Seinfeld: The Doodle	The Big Bang Theory	WWE NXT: from WWE Performance Center in Orlando, Fla.. Live.				PIX11 News at Ten		New York Nightcap	Seinfeld: The Robbery
13 WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		Finding Your Roots: Love & Basketball (R)		Once Upon a Time in Space: Friends Forever		Hiroshima Ground Zero		Amanpour and Company	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	My Life	(7:45) Father Brown		Murder Mysteries		Silent Witness		TBA	BBC News	The Day
25 WNYE	25	22	25	The Chavis	County	Voces NYC	Walkin NYC	Discovery	Never Knew	Future	New York	Secrets NY	Lessons of Basketball	
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) Fire	Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire: Foul Is Fair		Chicago Fire: Slamigan	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisi	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tan Cerca de Ti, Nace el		Guardián de mi Vida		Corazon de Oro		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Operación Triunfo				El Señor de los Cielos		Lejos de Ti		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Perfect (R)	Last Man	Last Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: The Hollywood		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	Neighbor	Parent War	Parent War	Parent War	Parent War	Parent War	Parent War	Parent War	Parent War	Parent War	Parent War
AMC	54	43	231	(6:00) Vegas Vacation (1997, Comedy)			Uncle Buck (1989, Comedy) John Candy. PG ★★★				The Great Outdoors (1988, Comedy) Dan Aykroyd.			
BBCAM	71	101	189	(5:45) Galaxy Quest (1999) Tim Allen. PG			Starship Troopers (1997, Science Fiction) Casper Van Dien. R ★★★						Law & Order: The Collar	
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Feud	Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Ms. Pat	Comic View	Martin	Martin	Martin	Martin
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	Housewives: Betrayals		Housewives		(9:02) Housewives		Watch What	(10:34) Real Housewives		Housewives
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) Lead	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COMEDY	45	50	190	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
DISC	66	27	120	(6:00) Homestead Rescue: Intervention			Homestead Rescue: Intervention: Wylde Mountain				Homestead Rescue: Intervention: Alaska Winter (R)			
DISNEY	49	31	250	Wish (2023, Family) Ariana DeBose. PG			Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Phineas	Kiff	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)
ESPN	28	36	70	Sports	SEC Storied				SEC Storied				SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	Podcast	Little League Softball: Game 12 Live.				World Series of Poker Main Event: Final Table Live.					
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Chopped	Chopped: Sea Bean		Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Kitchen Undercover		Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby
FREE	38	49	199	Mermaid G	(6:55) Tangled (2010, Fantasy) Mandy Moore. PG ★★★				The Princess and the Frog (2009) Anika Noni Rose. G				The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83	World Cup	Football	Leagues Cup Soccer: Pachuca at FC Cincinnati. Live.					Leagues Cup Soccer Live.			
FX	10	40	53	Spider-Man	Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021, Action) Tom Holland. PG-13 ★★★½						Guardians of the Galaxy (2014, Action) Chris Pratt.			
HALL		191	240	(6:00) A Castle of Our Own (2026)			Marry Go Round (2022, Romance) Amanda Schull. G				Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165	Renovation	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Extreme Buyers Club		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	The Secret	The Secret (R)		The Secret (R)		The Secret of Skinwalker		The Secret	(10:32) Proof Is Out		Proof Out
ID	23	171	123	Psychopath	Signs of a Psychopath		Psychopath	Psychopath	A Deadly Deal		48 Hours on ID		Psychopath	Psychopath
LIFE	62	45	140	Castle	Castle: Child's Play		Castle: Meme Is Murder		Castle: Time of Lives		Castle: Once Upon a		(11:03) Castle: Kill Switch	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Golden	Golden	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	(5:00) NHL	NHL Hockey				Club 30		NHL Hockey			
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(6:00) To Be Announced: Program information is currently unavailable.										
MSNOW	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The Weeknight		All in with Chris Hayes		The Briefing Jen Psaki		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
NATGEO	65	162	121	(6:00) Maya	Rise Fall Maya: Origins		Rise Fall Maya (R)		Rise Fall Maya: Collapse		Rise Fall Maya (R)		Lost City Machu (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	(11:15) Big Bang Theory	
OWN	173	180	145	Deadline	Deadline: Tamron Hall		Deadline: Tamron Hall		Deadline: Tamron Hall		20/20 on OWN: Missing		20/20 on OWN	
PARMT	36	56	54	(6:00) Old School (2003, Comedy) R ★★★			(8:05) The Hangover (2009, Comedy) Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms. R					(10:34) The Hangover Part II (2011) ★★★		
SNY	26	60	77	MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Cleveland Guardians. Live.						Post Game	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	(5:30) Ministry of Ungentlemanly (2024)			Underworld (2003, Horror) Kate Beckinsale. R ★★★					Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018)		
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	MLB on TBS	MLB Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers at Chicago Cubs from Wrigley Field. Live.						MLB on TBS	The Office
TCM	82	41	230	Advance to the Rear (1964) Glenn Ford.			The Big Heat (1953) Glenn Ford. ★★★½			(9:45) Dear Heart (1964, Romance) Glenn Ford. ★★★				Blackboard
TLC	52	28	139	Baylen (R)	Baylen Out Loud (R)		Baylen Out Loud		Baylen Out Loud		(10:01) Jay & Pamela		(11:01) Little Singles (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	Accountant	Dunkman League Live.		Dunkman League Live.		The Accountant (2016, Action) Ben Affleck. R ★★★					Joker ★★★½
TVLAND	85	34	241	(6:24) Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	19	52	217	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Wild N Out	Easy A (2010, Comedy) Emma Stone.		
WE	59	42	149	Minds	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds: 25 to Life		Criminal Minds: Corazon		Criminal Minds	
YES	53	89	76	Pregame	MLB Baseball: St. Louis Cardinals at New York Yankees. Live.						Postgame	YanksExtra	Home Plate	Homegrown
HBO	511	301	400	Life Larry	Murder on the Orient Express (2017) PG-13 ★★½				Hard Knocks: Seahawks		The Man Will Burn (R)		Hard Knocks (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	(4:58) Stephen King's It			(8:06) It (2017, Horror) Bill Skarsgård, Finn Wolfhard. R ★★★					(10:21) Oracle (2023) R		Y2K (2024)
MGM Plus	595		395	True Grit (2010, Western) Jeff Bridges.			Rocky (1976, Drama) Sylvester Stallone. PG ★★★½				Rocky II (1979, Drama) Sylvester Stallone. PG ★★★			
PARSHO	551	321	365	(6:00) The Untouchables (1987, Crime)			The Perfect Gamble (2025)			The Gambler (2014, Crime) Mark Wahlberg. R ★★½				Babel ★★★½

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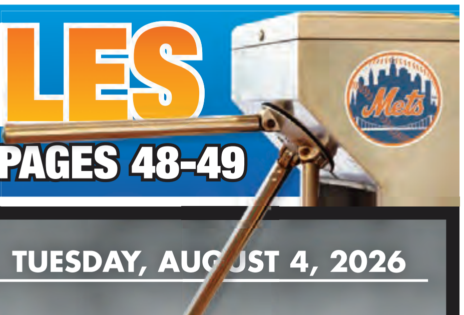

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Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

After deadline dud, Yanks to promote stud prospect Lombard — and send Volpe back down to minors

COME UP, SHORT

The Yankees failed to add a catcher or reliever on trade deadline Monday, adding only platoon outfielder Heliot Ramos from the Giants. But the big splash came later that night with the news that 21-year-old shortstop George Lombard Jr. is heading to The Bronx — and Anthony Volpe is headed out. **PAGES 53-50, 41**

CHIVILLI RUINS GARCÍA HEROICS

PAGES 50-51

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